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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

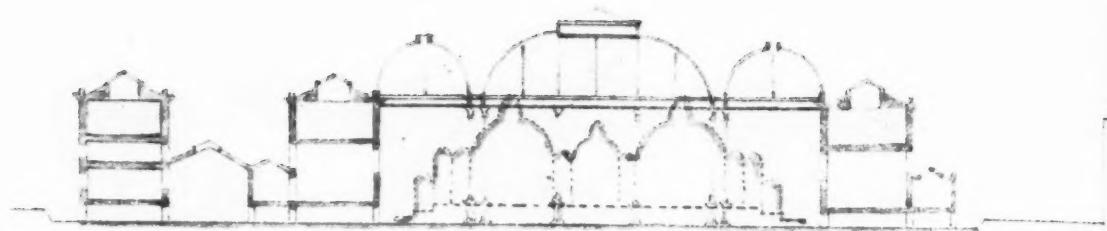
THIRD SERIES

VOL. 43. NO. 13

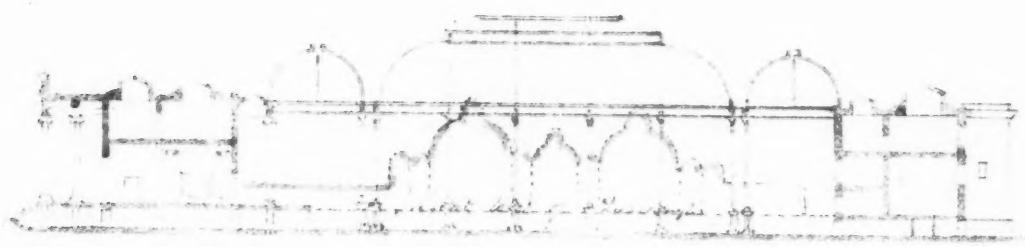
9 MAY 1936

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SECTION ON LINE K.K. VIDE PLANS.



SECTION ON LINE H.H. VIDE PLANS.

100 30 20 60 200 100 *feet*

#### THE BRITISH MUSEUM READING ROOM

A drawing from Sir Robert and Sidney Smirke's office showing an early scheme by Panizzi for a centrally placed reading room in the central courtyard, then called the Hall of Antiquities. The drawing is endorsed at the bottom in writing too faint for reproduction "the proposed building for the reading room as suggested by Mr. Panizzi is shewn by the edging of green" (i.e., the multidomed outline). The interest of this scheme is that it obviously precedes the matured idea for the circular single-domed room which was expressed by Panizzi in a famous sketch reproduced in the Museum Library guide. The plan accompanying these sections, which presumably shows Smirke's ideas, does not give the plan of Panizzi's room. The Library reading room is shown as occupying the full length of the north wing. A "proposed Victoria Library" balances the King's Library and a MSS. room occupies a wing more or less in the position of the Assyrian and Mausoleum galleries. *R.I.B.A. Library. Smirke collection*

# JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE *of* BRITISH ARCHITECTS

VOL. 43. 3RD SERIES

9 MAY 1936

No. 13

## Journal

### MR. E. VINCENT HARRIS A.R.A.

Mr. E. Vincent Harris [F.J., Architect of the new Government Buildings, Whitehall, has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy.

### THE SOUTHAMPTON CONFERENCE

The Southampton Conference programme, which has now been published, presents such an attractive round of engagements that this conference is certain to be among the best there have ever been. Sea, air, and forest land and buildings new and old are there for our enjoyment, and as centre of our activities the city on whose shores Canute, to show the limits of Royal power, commanded the tide to stand, a city which, as Camden tells us, was in the Middle Ages "famous for the number and neatness of its buildings, for the wealth of its inhabitants, and resort of merchants," but which in his day was "not in the same flourishing condition as formerly it was; for having lost a great part of its trade, it has lost most of its inhabitants too, and the great houses of merchants are now dropping to the ground and only shew its ancient magnificence." . . . The wheel has turned, and now once more Southampton is in the middle of another era of prosperity, and if the architects had their way would even be again famous for the number and neatness of its buildings.

The opening meeting in the Chantry Hall will, as usual, be the occasion for formal addresses, the President's speech, and papers on the Architecture of Tomorrow, by Mr. Jellicoe, and the Planning of a Great Seaport, by Professor W. G. Holford. On the first afternoon there will be visits to the docks and town, to Winchester, to the civic centre, to the airport, with five-shilling flights, and to the ordnance survey office. The banquet is to be on the Royal Mail liner S.S.

Asturias, a proper place for the central event in this seaport town. Many members will welcome the arrangement which puts the banquet on the evening of the second day instead of at the end of the long tours which are made on the third day. The tours include a cruise round the Isle of Wight and trips through the New Forest as far as Salisbury and Poole, where the famous Carters' tile works will be seen. There is no doubt that this is good fare and will attract a large gathering. Those who hope to come should fill up their forms and send them to the R.I.B.A. *soon*.

### THE RECEPTION

The second reception to be held in the R.I.B.A. Portland Place buildings is to be on Wednesday, 20 May. The time has been extended in which applications can be made for tickets, but members are asked to apply soon so that they may not run any risk of disappointment. The reception provides this year, particularly since there is no banquet, an occasion at which the R.I.B.A. is able to entertain its many friends in its own building. The small charge of five shillings for each person is made so that there should be no reason for provincial members who cannot attend to feel that their subscriptions are being used for what must of necessity be primarily a London and home counties entertainment.

### R.I.B.A. INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING

The Informal General Meeting for an open discussion on "Architectural Education," which was to have been held on Wednesday, 13 May, at 6.15 p.m., has been postponed until Tuesday, 19 May, at 6.15 p.m. Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C. [F.J., whose recent paper to the R.I.B.A. on "Architectural Education" is to be dis-

cussed, has signified his intention of being present, and in order to ensure the success of the meeting the Principals and Heads of the Schools of Architecture are urged to make every effort to attend. Further correspondence on this subject appears on pp. 716-18.

#### ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS

From time to time mention has been made in these columns of the work of the Architectural Graphic Records Committee, which has been working, as far as its means permit, to establish an index of architectural prints and drawings in public and private collections. As some of those who are in touch with the work of the A.G.R.C. know, during the "slump" the Committee had the help of a number of members of the R.I.B.A. who were temporarily unemployed. They were able to index the records in most of the leading London libraries, excluding only the British and the Victoria and Albert museums. For a long time the work was held up because the Committee lacked any funds to have the manuscript entries made by the workers typed and duplicated for the card index, but now grants have been made by a number of institutions, including the R.I.B.A., and private individuals sufficient to enable the first section to be typed. This is now being done, and before long the index, which has taken so long in compilation, will really be in use. The final objective of the A.G.R.C. is one that can probably never be reached, since to make accurate records of *all* drawings and prints of importance would demand not only money but time to conduct the research necessary before the whereabouts of many important drawings can be discovered. Nevertheless, the amount that it is possible for the A.G.R.C. to do should be of immense value to all those, scholars, practising architects, journalists, who have from time to time to consult old plans and views of buildings.

As a means of helping the Committee to track down records the location of which is not at present known to them they would be pleased if all members who have in their possession catalogues of exhibitions which included architectural drawings could either give or lend them to the Committee; if lent, any entries of interest will be transcribed, and the catalogue returned without delay. Any enquiries should be addressed to Mr. F. H. Mansford [F.], the Hon. Secretary, A.G.R.C., 15 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middlesex.

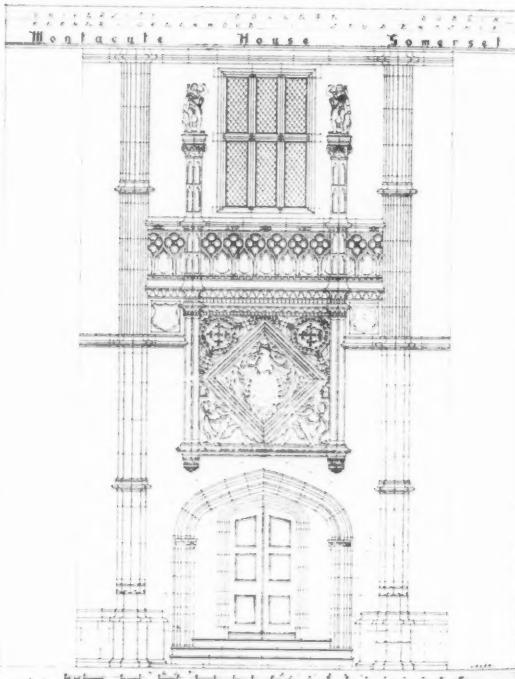
#### HEAT AND SOUND INSULATION

In response to several requests a reprint has been made of Dr. Ch. Möller's two articles on "Experience in Heat and Sound Insulation," which were published in the JOURNAL some months ago. The reprint can be obtained from the R.I.B.A., 1s. 6d., or 1s. 9d.

post free. The author is the official expert of the Budapest Court of Justice on these subjects. This means that his statements are not based solely on laboratory researches but are the results of actual observation and "real life" experiment. Consequently they are of special interest to architects. Moreover, they are not written in that highly technical language which obscures the import of scientific statements for most architects. They might almost be described as "building science without tears" were it not for the fact that they are concerned with complicated technical problems of kinds that grow daily in importance in architectural practice.

#### THE KERNER-GREENWOOD PRIZE, DUBLIN.

The picture at the foot of this page is reproduced from one of the drawings of Montacute House by Mr. T. Randall, which was awarded the Kerner-Greenwood Prize of twenty-five guineas for measured work, which is competed for annually by students of the School of Architecture, University College, Dublin.





Swiss National Library, Berne

## LIBRARY PLANNING

By HAROLD A. DOD, F.R.I.B.A.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS ON MONDAY, 20 APRIL, AT 8 P.M.

MR. INGALTON SANDERS [F.] (VICE-PRESIDENT) IN THE CHAIR

### INTRODUCTION

This paper is intended to give only a general survey of the development of library planning as it is, of course, impossible in a single lecture to go very closely into matters of detail, however important they may be in the last analysis.

I have, therefore, confined myself to a discussion of the broad lines of library planning in an attempt to discover amongst much diversity what is of real value.

There is a further point that I should like to make clear at the outset, and it is this: that I am fully aware that the particular requirements of almost all libraries are different, varying from one country to another, and from one city to another, so that while criticising, as I intend to do, certain features of planning there may be in the background some specific reasons for their adoption of which I am not fully aware, and again, while the influence of a particular site on a library plan should not really be overlooked, I am proposing to ignore that factor almost entirely. This omission may, of course, be rather unfair when considering a particular plan adapted to an awkward site, but it is simpler for

my purpose to deal with the subject in this way and if I have made my point clear no harm can be done.

I propose to divide my subject into three sections, first, the historical side, dealing very briefly with the period when books were few in number and the only problem was to provide accommodation for a strictly limited number of readers, secondly, the period following the invention of printing, when books in moderate numbers had to be placed on library shelving, and thirdly, the development in our own time, when the flood of literature poured out from the printing presses has passed all bounds and filled to overflowing even the world's largest libraries, to the despair of the conscientious librarian, who dare not destroy a single volume.

One of the principal objects of my paper is to consider the various ways of dealing with this stream of books as exemplified in contemporary library plans, and then, if I may, to look a little into the future in company with those who, foreseeing the ever-increasing problem of book storage, have given considerable attention to it.

I have been able to travel in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and France in pursuit of information

on the subject, and I hope that what I have to say may not be without interest.

### EARLY LIBRARIES

The early libraries were mainly in the nature of reading rooms, with such manuscripts and books as were available stored in cupboards and chests. The Cloister Library, at Gloucester, which was probably completed about the year 1400, gives an idea of what was probably regarded as a most convenient and comfortable arrangement. In passing, I would mention that this idea of carrels, or study recesses, has recently been reproduced in some of the larger American libraries, where they are used by research students. The reproduction is, however, in steel instead of stone.

As a development of the individual arrangement seen at Gloucester, and no doubt fairly common elsewhere, the Malatesta Library, in Cesena, near Venice, has long lecterns and benches for readers fitted into a very pleasant room. This is about 1452, and to increase the book storage you will note that an extra shelf is fitted below the lectern top on which the volumes are laid flat.

Progress at this time was slow, and one hundred years or so later, in the magnificent Vatican Library by Fontana, we find the precious volumes are still stored in chests with occasional tables for readers.

Trinity Hall, Cambridge, marks a further stage of development, and brings us to about the year 1600, to a fine example of what is sometimes called the stall system of library planning, a phase which probably reached high-water mark in Wren's Trinity College Library at Cambridge, completed in 1678.

At this time there was beginning to be great activity in the library world, and this example was very much followed, possibly owing to the semi-privacy it provided for readers in its deep alcoves.

### THE GROWTH OF THE MODERN LIBRARY

The Library of the British Museum, the first of the great circular reading rooms, which holds 450 readers, was planned in 1854 by Panizzi, who was a librarian first and an architect afterwards. The conception of the whole building was something new, and the type of construction most ingenious, being typical of the period which produced the Crystal Palace.

The building is a vast bookstack, for about a million

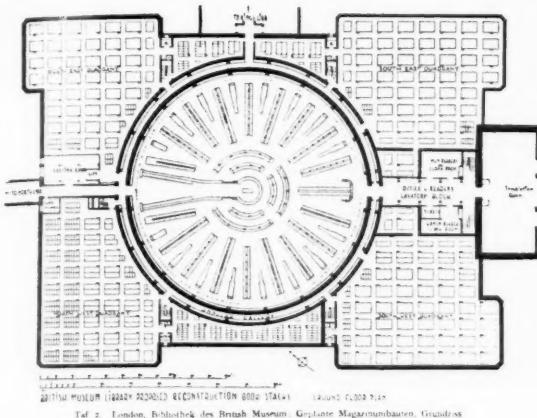
This semi-privacy was arrived at in an accidental way owing to the need of storing more volumes and the consequent building up of the lecterns, so that when in a modern reading room these alcoves are omitted it should not be considered, if convenient book storage is provided elsewhere, that an important piece of library planning is being sacrificed. For individual readers the carrell is satisfactory, but these large alcoves really make supervision difficult, and the getting of books is a disturbance to the readers which outweighs any seeming advantage. I stress this point as there still seems to be in this country a certain amount of controversy over the value of alcoves for readers.

The end wings of the Bodleian show yet another link in the chain of progress, and one which I think can hardly be considered a success. I refer to the lofty wall shelving in Selden End and Arts End completed about 1612. One might suggest that this is, perhaps, a conscious effort to get the most out of the decorative value of a lining of books from floor to ceiling. The introduction of the gallery and double tier of bookshelves is not satisfactory. I do not know whether this is the first example of this unfortunate device, but it is certainly not the last, and since 1612 many generations of readers have lived to be disturbed by the shuffling which goes on while a search is being made for books along the gallery shelving.

After reaching this stage of development in the opening years of the 17th century, library planning seems to have remained almost stationary for about 200 years, and we reach the middle of the 19th century to find a recrudescence of former activity, and the planning and building of several monumental libraries.

### THE BRITISH MUSEUM TO MANCHESTER

and a half volumes, in cast iron, the favourite material of the time, regarded then, no doubt, in the same way as we now regard ferro-concrete. The dome over the reading room is supported for the most part by the surrounding structure of the multi-storey bookstack, and the whole is contained within brick enclosing walls. This building was a direct attempt by a man of an original cast of mind to tackle the growing library problem, and it is to



British Museum. Portion of plan showing Panizzi's circular reading room with the quadrants round it filled with the new stacks (these are not all built yet)  
(Plan from Dr. Albert Predeck's *Das Moderne Englische Bibliothekswesen*)

be regarded, I think, as an outstanding architectural achievement. Of course, it is now to a great extent out of date, and much of the cast-iron shelving is being replaced with steel of lighter construction and permitting of closer spacing of shelves.

In 1888 the Library of Congress, Washington, followed the British Museum with an ambitious plan—again the circular, or rather, in this case, octagonal reading room as the central feature, but the stacks are not in such close contact with it. The monumental plan cast in the Beaux-Arts mould has begun to show itself with disastrous results from the viewpoint of the librarian and the reader—the vital lesson of Panizzi and the British Museum remained forgotten for a long time.

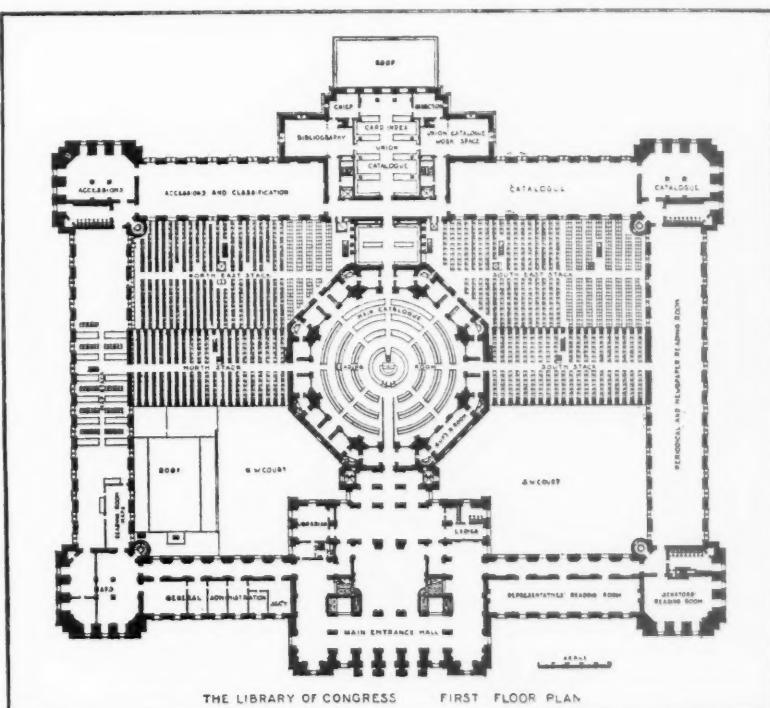
The process of filling in the light wells at Washington, to give additional book storage, has

Library of Congress, Washington, built between 1886-97, designed by J. L. Smithmeyer and P. J. Pelz. (Plan reproduced by permission from *Arundell Esdaile*. National Libraries of the World)

begun in the S.E. court. The total capacity is now about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million volumes. There is, of course, no disadvantage in the books being without natural light, but unfortunately the rooms in the side blocks are seriously affected, and with this type of plan there does not appear to be any other practical solution of the problem of finding additional book-storage space.

The Prussian State Library in Berlin, completed about 1914, is really a composite library shared by the university and other bodies. There is no change in the general plan from what was then the established type. The reading room will hold 360 readers, and the stacks are on the upper floors of the surrounding buildings—the proposed method of extension here is by building upwards and arrangements have been made for doing this.

These three famous examples show the interest which was taken in providing a fine reading room as the central feature of the library, with the books rather scattered in two or more stack blocks disposed, with the exception of the British Museum, according to some general pre-conceived effect rather than with the idea of relating them as closely as possible



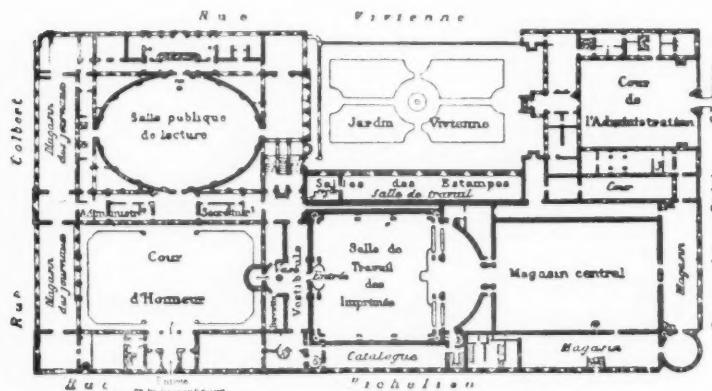
to the issuing desk. At first sight it appears as if books can conveniently be brought in from all points of the compass, but the system has obvious disadvantages of access and control.

I venture to suggest that of far more interest than the foregoing is the plan of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, by Labrouste, built in 1859. It followed close upon the Geneviève Library, designed by the same architect, but it is a much more original scheme, being, I think, the prototype of what is to be regarded as the really successful library plan.

There is first a large reading room and beyond this, planned on an equal footing with it, is the book stack. This four-storey stack is one of the first examples of its type, being planned with light cast-iron shelving arranged in regular rows. The intermediate floors are of the open grille type to allow the passage of light from floor to floor, the whole block being lighted from the roof.

The relation of the reading room to the stack block is the correct one, but the axes are wrong, and it would have made for better service if the rooms had run parallel with one another instead of being placed end to end.

We can now leave the historical survey to consider a series of more modern solutions of our problem. It should be remembered that the main interest is now, of necessity, gradually changing from the reading room to the stackroom, for the



Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. In 1854 Labrouste, Government Architect, rebuilt and adapted the Hôtel Tubeuf and Galerie Mazarine, which form the upper and left-hand parts of the plan, the part at the bottom right, including the main reading room and stack, were entirely new.

Plan reproduced by permission from Arundell Esdaile, *National Libraries of the World*

librarian has found that it is much easier to provide accommodation for his readers than to house the volumes which are in increasing numbers committed to his care.

One of the first examples in which the stack block is brought proudly to the front is Carré and Hasting's New York Public Library, completed in 1911. One can recall the somewhat startling impression of "functionalism," though we did not quite call it that, that this bold piece of planning and elevational treatment created at the time.

The reading room is really in a curious position on top of the stacks and seems to be somewhat inaccessible at that height. This arrangement has, however, without much reason, been repeated many times since in spite of its obvious disadvantages.

About this time the United States saw a feverish rush of library building, and although most of it showed little advance in planning over previous work there was in the mass a steady improvement.

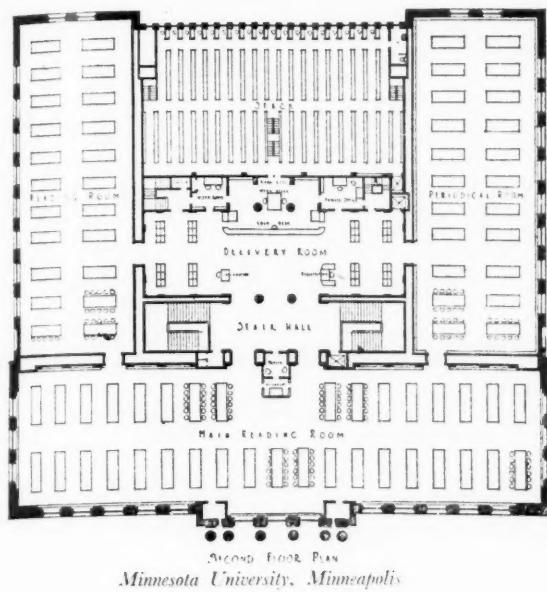
In the Widener Memorial Library at Harvard, by Trumbauer, completed in 1915, the reading room is placed on the main front and not too high up. The stacks are well arranged and the catalogue room, which is now on the way to becoming a separate unit, is well placed in relation to the rest of the plan.

In this example we see the reintroduction of the carrels arranged for intensive study in close proximity to the book stacks.

The Free Library of Philadelphia, designed by the same architect in 1927, carries us forward to a much more compact type of plan—the light wells are becoming smaller, almost to extinction.

In the Minnesota University Library, Minneapolis, finished about 1931, this process of compression has resulted in there being no light wells at all, and the plan is thereby rendered particularly noteworthy.

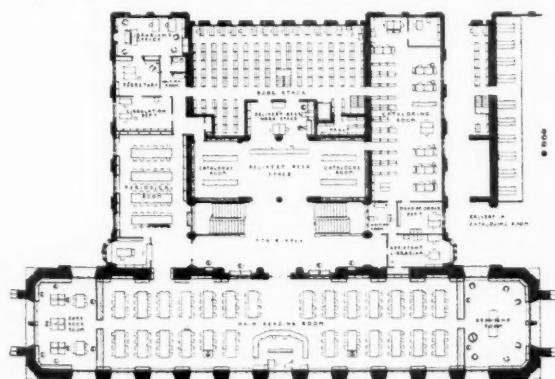
In all these American libraries there is, of course, no "open access" as we understand it—indeed, this country seems to be the last stronghold of this system, and it would appear, now that books are numbered by millions, that its advantages are more theoretical than actual. I speak of course as an architect, and librarians may take another view.



The Charles Deering Library of 1932 I regard as probably the best of this series of American monumental plans. For a large library the control is excellently arranged. The plan is compact, but there is no feeling of crowding.

If we turn now to our own country we find some remarkable developments taking place. About 1909 Mr. Sydney Greenslade produced his com-

*Charles Deering Memorial Library, North-Western University, Ill., by J. G. Rogers, architect of the Yale Library. Main façade about 200 ft. long. Reading room seats 208 and has open access books*



petent plan for the National Library of Wales. It is a big scheme and perhaps rather straggling in the light of to-day, but at the time it was undoubtedly far in advance of anything done previously.

Access to the reading room is unnecessarily lengthy, and the catalogue room, which one passes through on the way in, is very small and crowded. In the large reading room is that abomination the triple tier of bookshelves, here combined with alcoves to increase the periphery of the bookshelving. It is an arrangement which causes much distraction. When one is reading it is most unpleasant to have people walking about looking for books on light and airy balconies two storeys above one's head.

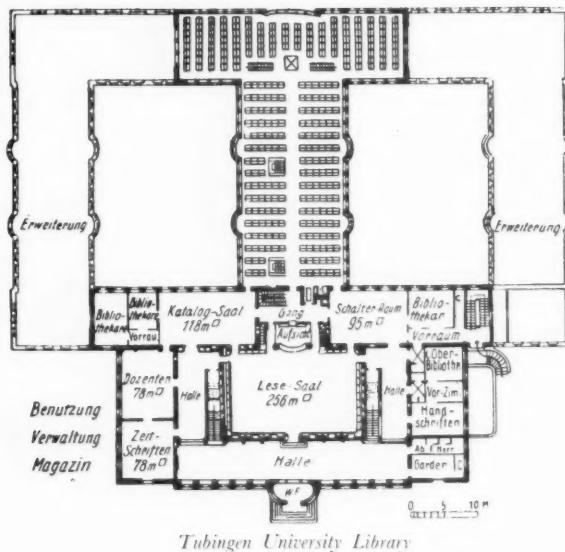
The suggested arrangement for extending the stack was a novel one. The first stack block was completed about 1920 by Mr. Holden, and is, as one would expect, most efficient, though I understand that full size passenger lifts would have been preferred to the smaller book lifts which have been fitted. I understand what happens is that the assistant puts a parcel of books into a lift at the bottom, and has to go upstairs to meet them; and he thinks it would be much better if he went with them.

Mr. Dunbar Smith, at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, built in 1924 a most successful library. The plan is excellent. Although the approach is somewhat circuitous, readers arrive at the right point in the scheme, between the reading room and the stack.

The stack is of the multi-storey type, extension being arranged for by adding further floors on the roof. Owing to the shortness of the stack the disadvantages of having its axis at right-angles to that of the reading room are not accentuated.

This last plan should be compared with that of Tübingen University Library, which is highly thought of by the German experts. It is a well-planned library, with the public rooms to the front, the administrative offices, catalogue rooms, etc., in the centre, and the stacks at the back, but, of course, there is here no difficult problem of "open access" cutting across the simpler arrangement possible with the "closed" type.

These last three plans I regard as satisfactory and as making a distinct break with the defects of previous work, and they open thereby the way for future advances.



Tübingen University Library

The year 1933-34 saw many successful smaller libraries erected in this country, and I have selected two as typical examples—Mr. Verner Rees's Swansea University Library has the reading room on the top of the stacks, though here owing to the inequalities of levels on the site the disadvantage is not so important. Mr. Crossley's Birkenhead Public Library illustrates the waste necessitated by the "open access" system, and the need it creates for supervision from the central issuing desk. Such a plan is, I think, unknown outside Great Britain.

The New Library of Cambridge University has undoubtedly been planned in a highly individual way to meet certain specific requirements. There are three main stack blocks grouped round three sides of a quadrangle, the fourth side being closed by the reading room. There is, as a central predominating feature, a stack tower 12 stories high.

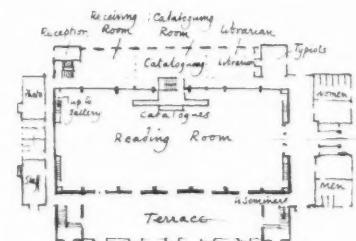
The catalogues are arranged on either side of the inner hall which leads to the reading room, and here also are some of the important administrative rooms. Like the New York Public Library, the stack blocks have been given full prominence, but the reading room is better placed as a detached and readily accessible unit.

A prominent authority has laid down that "a large library must be planned from the stacks," and Cambridge would appear, judged by that

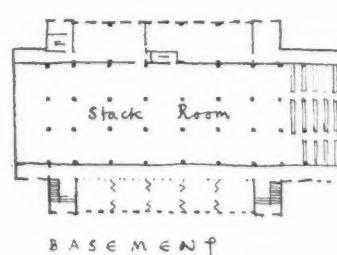
standard to be too scattered and lacking in cohesion as the bulk of the books is not collected in a centrally placed stack, as might have been the case.

Mr. Vincent Harris's Manchester Central Library is built on a well-tried plan, and one which gives the shortest possible connection between the stacks and reading room. With this type of plan, it is absolutely essential at the outset to place a limit to the number of books to be contained within the library as extension is scarcely possible afterwards. In this case, I believe, 50 years' expansion has been allowed for. It seems, however, a pity that the readers should have to climb to the top of the book stacks before reaching the reading room, although in this case there may be the excuse of a congested city site.

E. E. Asplund's Stockholm Public Library, erected in 1927, is, for that country, a somewhat unexpected reversion to type. The book stacks are again below the reading room which is reached by an unusual stairway leading up through the floor to arrive at a point near the centre of the room,



GROUND FLOOR

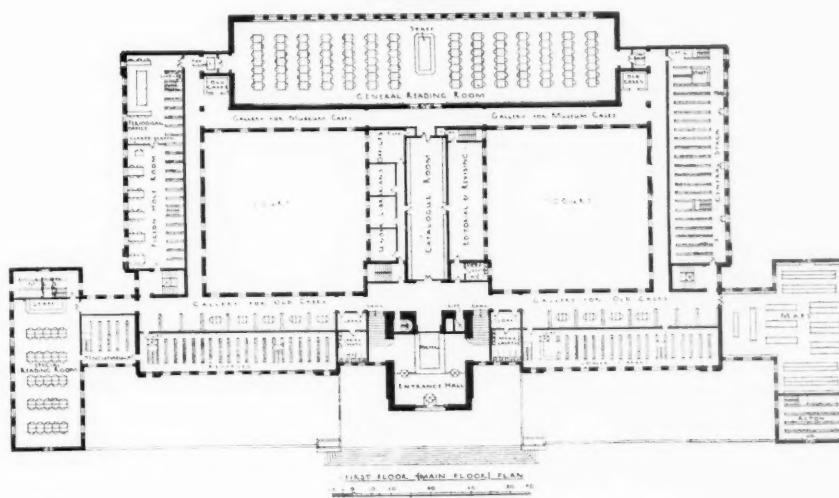


BASEMENT

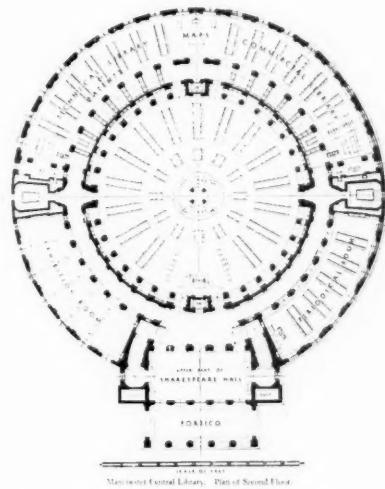
Swansea University Library, won in competition by Verner O. Rees [F.] in 1934. Holds 20,000 volumes in reading room, and 100,000 in stack, plus 34,000 more when additions have been made. Note the reading terrace and excellently centralised services

• NEW LIBRARY • CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY •  
Sir G. G. GILBERT SCOTT R.A.

Mr. G. G. Gilbert, Secy. S. A.  
17th Corps, Army of the Potomac.

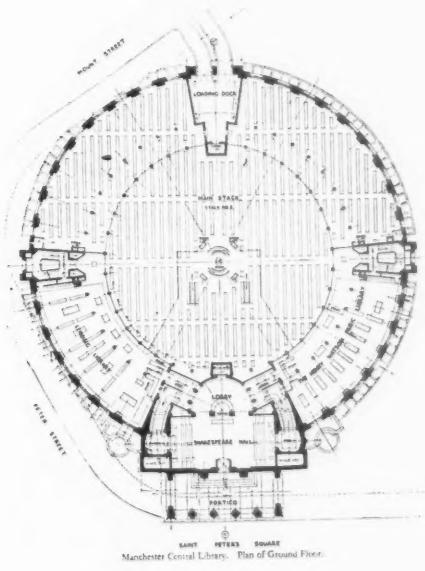


where the control is situated. This can hardly be regarded as a success from any point of view. It makes an unpleasant entrance and seriously interferes with the circulation. The three-tier stack, you will note, dies hard, it seems to be, apart from its obvious decorative effect, particularly unfortunate here, as this is not an "open access"



At top: Cambridge University Library. Built in 1934 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A. This might be described as a centrally departmentalised library. The many almost self-contained departments are all in one building

*Manchester Reference Library, by E. Vincent Harris, A.R.A., built in 1934. Reading Room seats 300 and shelves 13,500 books on open access*



MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY. Plan of Ground Floor.

library, and the books would have been better on the stack shelves.

This room was, I understand, originally intended to be top-lit, but it was thought that in a northern climate this might be too cold, and long windows were introduced into the drum.

Before I pass on to the final stage of my lecture, I should like to show three or four interesting slides. They are: first, the stack block of the League of Nations Library at Geneva—somewhat disappointing in appearance, but otherwise efficient. The stack tower of the Stirling Memorial Library at Yale, completed in 1929; this more-than-Gothic tower will hold about 3½ million volumes on its total of sixteen floors. This composition appears to be the result of the bad habit, very prevalent in America, of combining the word "Memorial" with "Library"—the wrong atmosphere being thereby created at the outset. Thirdly, our own delightful library here, with its excellent arrangement of side rooms and gallery for periodicals.

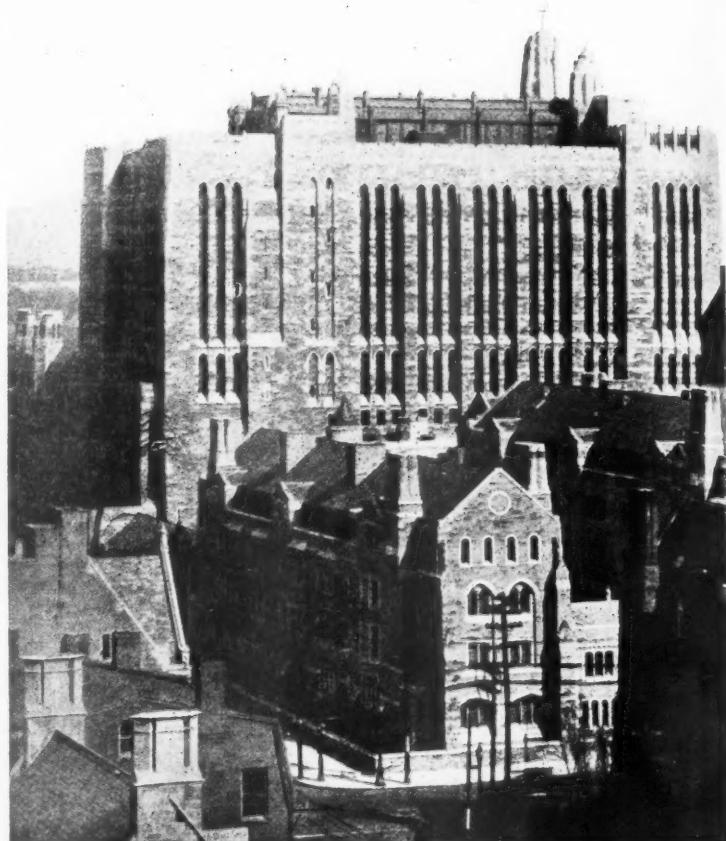
This example from Heidelberg shows the small library of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. The three-tier arrangement is, perhaps, just permissible here, as it is a library for consultation by specialists and not for general readers.

#### THE PRESENT DAY AND THE FUTURE\*

We come finally to what is perhaps the most interesting phase—the plans of yesterday and tomorrow.

The Swiss National Library at Berne is remarkable for the directness of its plan and the simple manner of its carrying out. It cannot, I think, fail to make a great impression. Continental library experts hold that a large library must be planned from the book stacks and Berne certainly exemplifies this by the dominating character of its nine-storey stack.

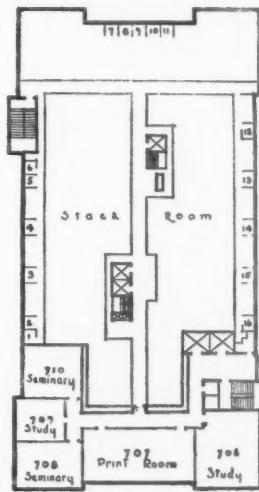
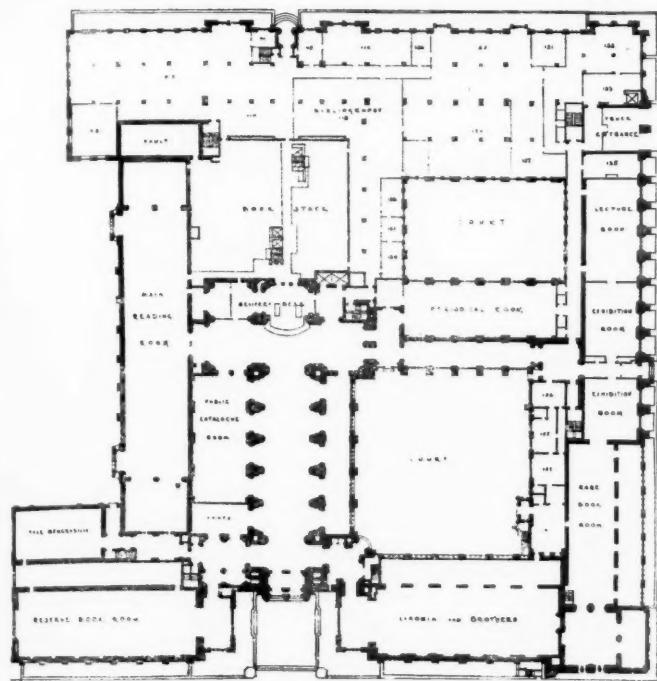
The main reading room, the catalogue room, the periodical room and also an exhibition room



*Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University. Built 1929 by John Gamble Rogers. Stack of 16 floors takes 3½ million volumes. The lightweight constructional members form the bookcase framing so that the stack is, virtually, not a building with a series of floors to take bookcases but one large bookcase spanned by lightweight decks only 1½" thick. The Snead conveyor system is designed to complete furthest delivery in 2½ minutes*

are arranged in a single top-lighted block placed in front of the stack and running lengthwise with it. In the wings are various State administrative rooms, State archives, etc.

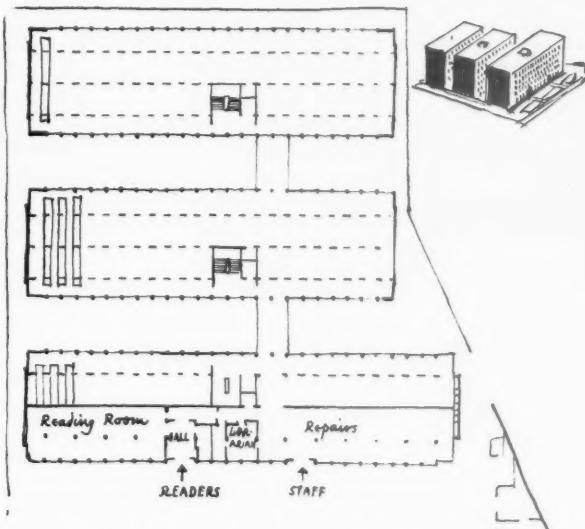
In the interior the use made of glazed screens to divide the various rooms from one another gives an impression of lightness and space generally absent from library interiors—it also makes supervision a comparatively easy matter.



*Sterling Library plan. On left entrance floor and above a typical stack floor showing the study rooms and carrels*

A most interesting example of modern book stack construction is to be found in the new glass and reinforced concrete blocks being built at Versailles by M. Roux-Spitz, to take the surplus from the Bibliothèque Nationale. The front part is all that has been built up to date. It comprises a reading room, a room at the side for repairs, and the stacks. The whole thing is made of reinforced concrete, with prisms of glass cast into it, a most exquisite piece of workmanship outside, but I am afraid I cannot say the same of the interior. The British Museum authorities have built a stack block for a similar purpose at Colindale.

The Lenin State Library at Moscow appears to be very straggling in comparison with the compactness of Berne. The entrance leads to a long flight of steps which go up through the exhibition hall to the catalogues. From this hall the main reading room is approached and the stack for 6 million volumes lies beyond it. This latter lies at right angles to the reading room, a change of axis which must make the small connecting link between them very congested.



*Versailles stack of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Built 1934 by M. Michael Roux-Spitz, who has also carried out the reconstruction of the Central Bibliothèque Nationale*

The preliminary competition held last year for the new State and University Library of Frankfurt produced, as one might expect, some very interesting and provocative designs, and I have selected from them one or two outstanding examples.

In the scheme by Hans Peter, which gained first place, there is no doubt, whatever, about the importance of the stack, it is the main feature, and the single storey room which stands at its base is divided into the proper component parts by the lightest of glazed screens—the public lending room, the catalogue room, the large reading room, the periodical room and the University section of the library. A memorial to the poet Goethe is contained in a separate library to one side, and is not allowed to interfere with the general planning, as would most probably have been the case in America.

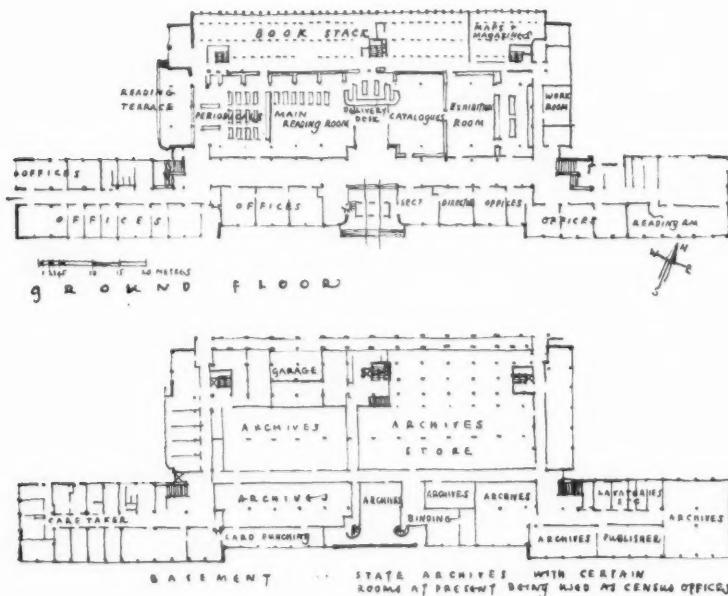
The second place was awarded to a similar scheme, but with the stack of a much more vertical character.

We have now observed the gradual growing up of the book stack, and its rise to a place of first importance from which it cannot, I think, be again put down.

Mr. Snead Macdonald, of America, by whose courtesy I show these next two slides, carries us a stage further into the future to a building which is convertible without structural alterations into either stack space or reader's space. Mr. Snead Macdonald makes the point that the utmost flexibility is necessary in library plans to allow of change and expansion at any time and in any direction.

You will note that the whole building except one main reading room is divided by light steel uprights into 9 ft. squares, this arrangement admits of either three rows of shelving being put in at the usual spacing or of the introduction of tables for readers.

It might be pointed out that 8 ft. floor to floor, which is all that he allows, while quite all right for stacks, is not sufficient for readers in spite of air-conditioning, but there is, I think, a very great deal in the idea worth consideration for a small library. This suggestion will serve, however, to make the point that there is still insufficient flexibility in many of our plans; times are changing rapidly, and few, if any, librarians can foresee their future requirements, the library problem requires to be approached with an open mind if we are to do full justice to its great possibilities.

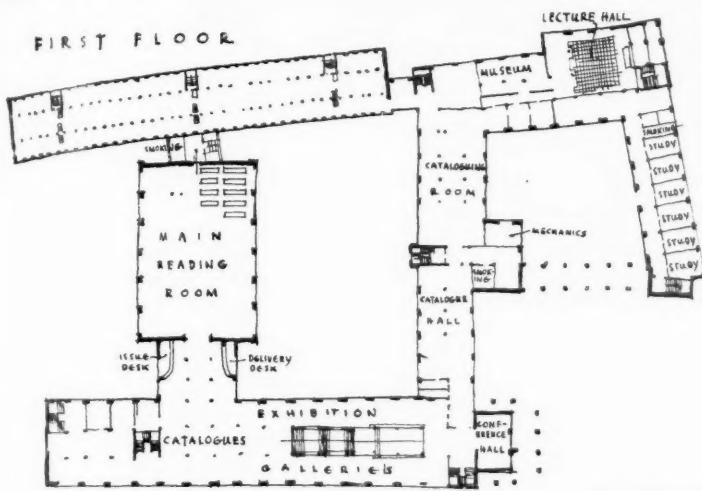


Swiss National Library, Berne. Built 1931 to replace old National Library, Kirchenfeld, Berne; part at present used by non-library Government departments. Stack is of reinforced concrete 8 floors high. Architects: M. M. Oeschger and Kauffmann, of Zurich, and M. Hostettler, of Berne

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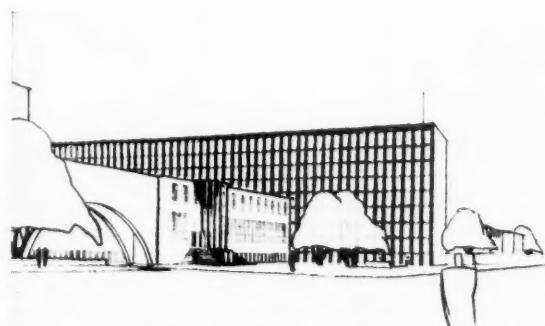
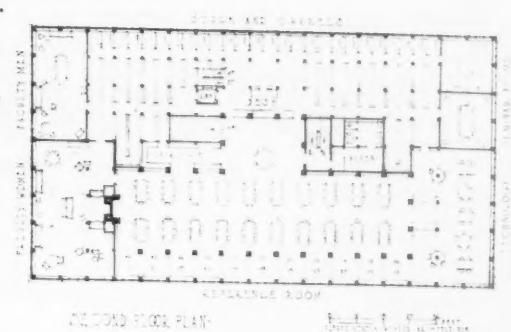
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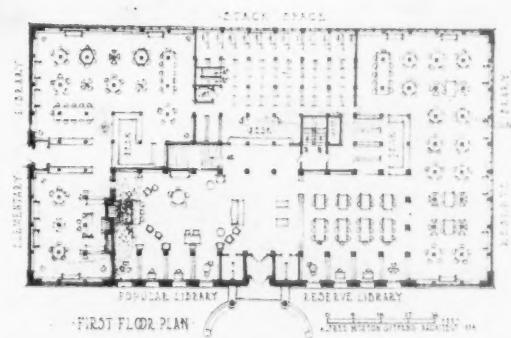


Lenin State Library, Moscow. Built about 1933. Designed to hold about 9,000,000 books and accommodate 7,000 readers. Plan includes smoking rooms and a dining room

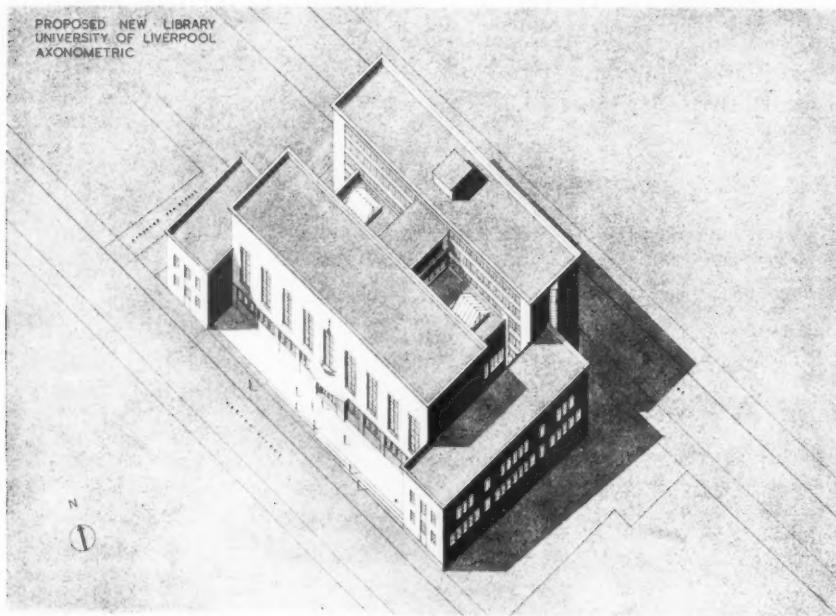
In conclusion, I am venturing to show one or two slides of the new library I am building for Liverpool University. After what I have made so bold to say you will, no doubt, expect all the virtues and none of the vices, but I cannot, I am afraid, show you anything so near the ideal.



Frankfurt-am-Main University Library. Perspective of design by Hans Peter which won the preliminary competition in 1935



Plans illustrating Mr. Angus Snead Macdonald's scheme for a modern library described by him as "a working laboratory for all kinds of people rather than a monumental reading place for the comparatively few congenital bookworms"



## LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Architect: *Harold A. Dod [F.]*

Site: 180 ft. by 142 ft.

Main reading room on first floor to get optimum light and quiet is 122 ft. by 38 ft. by 25 ft. high.

Catalogue hall is flanked by rooms housing a large part of the open-access books.

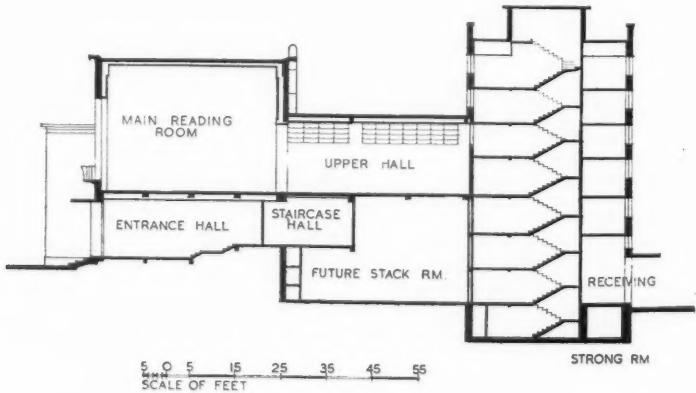
The stack has 8 floors 7 ft. apart. Only 5 floors will be equipped at first. These will house all present stock, with room for normal increase for many years. The stack will be naturally lit by windows on one side.

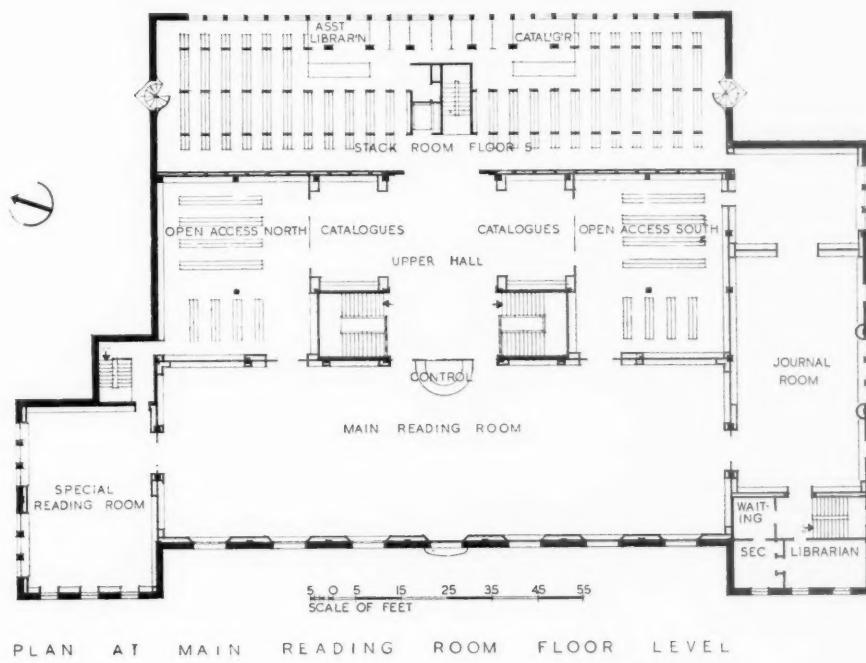
On the floors there will be carrels about 6 ft. by 4 ft. 6 ins.

Total accommodation about 650,000 volumes and 400 readers. When the three extra stack floors are fitted up book accommodation will be 1,000,000. Of the 103,000 open-access books, 50,000 will be in the reading rooms and 53,000 on the fourth stack floor.

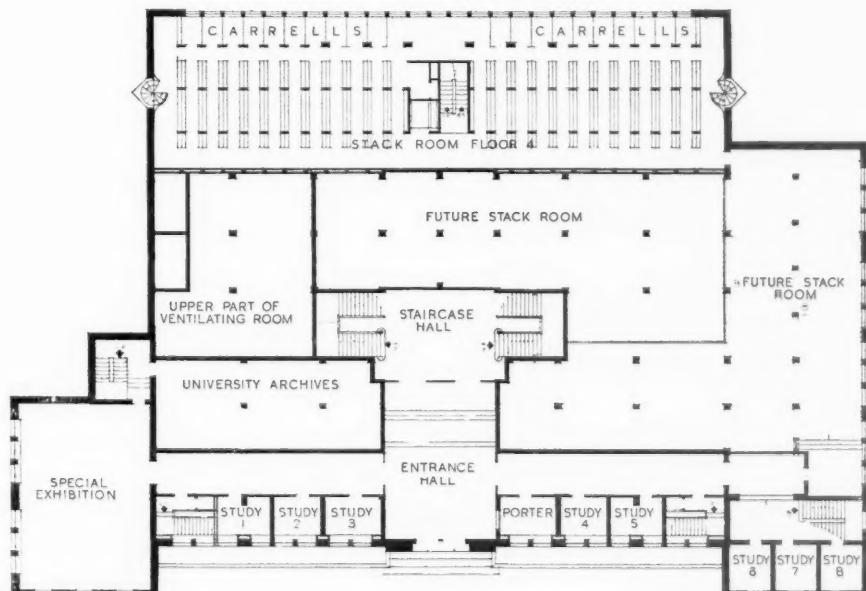
A full air-conditioning plant will be installed.

The building will be faced with Portland stone.





PLAN AT MAIN READING ROOM FLOOR LEVEL



PLAN AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL

## Vote of Thanks and Discussion

**DR. H. H. E. CRASTER** (Bodley's Librarian): We have all listened to Mr. Dod's excellent paper with a great deal of interest. He quoted the dictum that "a large library must be planned from the stacks." I think that that can be put in a different way by saying that the foundation of every library plan must lie in the relation of the stack to the reading room. That is what one would expect; for, after all, in every library, great or small, there are only two primary factors: the reader and his book. The problem is to get the one into convenient relation with the other.

In the plans which Mr. Dod has thrown upon the screen we have, I think, seen the reading room in every conceivable relation to the stack except underneath it. I think we shall probably all agree that the central position of the reading room is the worst, but I am not so sure that we can say that any single position for the stack is definitely superior to all others; I doubt, that is to say, whether we can affirm that there is such a thing as an ideal library plan, any more than we can say that there is such a thing as an ideal house plan. Allowance must be made, as Mr. Dod points out at the outset of his paper, for the conditions imposed upon any library by the site available for it, and by the particular conditions of that library.

There are other things also which have to be taken into account, and I think that perhaps the most important are light and quiet. I remember an American librarian of distinction once saying to me, "When you start to plan a library, the first thing that you must think of is how to ventilate it." I would not go so far as that, although I think that probably the influence of the intake of fresh air into a library on the output of research would form an interesting subject for a thesis!

Mr. Dod is very much to be congratulated upon his most successful plans for the Liverpool University Library, which we look forward to studying with closer attention in the next number of the JOURNAL of this Institute, and upon realising that if you are to produce a good library building, it must in the first place be built as a library. I have great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Dod for his excellent paper.

**MR. ARUNDELL ESDAILE** (Secretary to the British Museum): I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Dod, for many reasons; partly because at the end of his sketch of the past, present and future of library planning, he has shown us one of the best examples that I have seen of what I may call the advanced present, out of which the future is going to grow, his plan for Liverpool. In many particulars, which I cannot go into, that plan exhibits principles which he has laid down, and others which he has suggested. They seem to me to indicate, above all, that he is one of those architects who, when they plan a building, are not above keeping in constant

consultation with the man who is going to administer it. It does not matter whether it is a library or a hospital or a domestic dwelling house: the point of view of the man who is going to administer the building is of importance to the man who is going to plan it. Too often, not by the fault of the planner, but by the fault of the administrative authority, that contact is lost, and the results are what we have occasion to deplore.

To me the history of libraries has always appeared as a race between the increasing flood of books (and I may add of readers) on the one hand, and the wits of the architects and the librarians who have to cope with them on the other. Sometimes one gets in front and sometimes the other, but for the most part the books and readers are ahead.

The two chief starting points of development have been, first when the abolition of the chain gave the reader and the book freedom from the immediate contiguity of the window, and thereby got rid of the stall system, and second when books became too numerous for the sheep and their fodder to be enclosed in a single pen, and reading rooms became differentiated from stacks.

Mr. Dod has quoted an anonymous authority as saying that a large library must be planned from the stacks. That the library plan is based upon the stack seems to me less than half the truth, in fact to be a third of the truth, because there are three elements in the planning of a library: the book, the reader, and the man who has to bring the book and the reader together, the administrator; and each of those three elements has its own internal articulation, as well as the articulation of the three. The whole of a library plan is far more complicated than the author of the statement quoted had any idea of. But at the same time he is right in a degree; the measurement of the shelf, making the press with its passage-ways, is the unit which, multiplied, gives the measurement of the stack-block and also its fenestration.

Some plans have been criticised by Mr. Dod, and notably the Cambridge plan, for too much "middle-aged spread." There is, however, a real reason for it at Cambridge; for there the reading room is a secondary affair. When the Cambridge dons were informed that they were going to have a reading room in the new University Library there was almost a riot in the Senate. They were accustomed to read among the books; and for that reason the extensive plan of the Cambridge stacks seems to me to be no offence against the true principles of library planning.

Mr. Dod is perfectly right in singling out the Charles Deering Library as one of the best examples of an articulated library in existence. It is; and the credit due to Mr. Dod is immense, not for perceiving that—it is more or less obvious once one has the courage to get inside, but for daring to get past that appalling

imitation of Tudor Gothic in the King's College Chapel style which is the exterior.

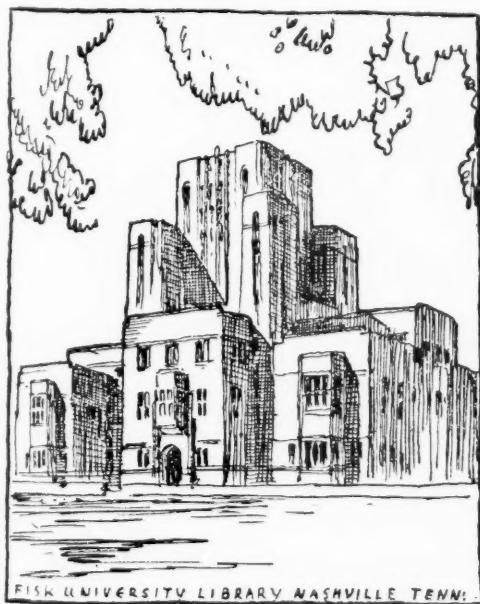
Mr. Dod has deliberately passed over the question of site, pointing out that it may often be a disadvantage. But it may also at times be a great advantage, and I think it is worth referring to an example which he has not mentioned, namely, the National Library of Scotland, at present only under plan. There they have a very steep hillside, and reaching from it a bridge, and on the side of that bridge a building site, for extension. This site gives them several advantages. It gives them great depth for their stacks without building up into heaven; and, after all, natural light is utterly unimportant to stack planning nowadays, a fact which few people realise. It also gives them a reading room on the street level, and yet secluded from the street, because it can be placed at the back. They can therefore house their books properly, and they can house away from all distraction their readers, that *genus irritabile lectorum* with which we have to deal.

As to readers, Mr. Dod mentioned the trouble to them of people walking along galleries. I have had a little experience in the centre of the British Museum reading room, and my recollection is that almost the only thing that readers have never complained to me about is people walking on the galleries over their heads. They have complained of everything in heaven and earth, possible and impossible, but not of that, and I do not think that it is a problem. As for alcoves, I have not heard—Mr. Dod has been less fortunate, perhaps—of

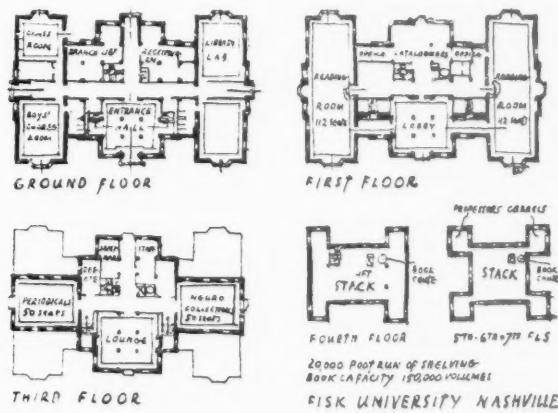
contemporary plans in which alcoves have been inserted with galleries over. The modern method is to provide not alcoves, but what I will not call cubicles or stalls (both of which terms, to my mind, have wrong connotations) but carrels, in which the only books are those deliberately brought there for the particular scholars using them; and these, of course, do cause interruption. by having to be fetched away.

There are two plans in America, neither of which I have seen myself except on paper, which I think are worth mentioning, where the books are collected into the centre of the building, away from the unnecessary and even deleterious light, and where the surrounding space, where there is light and air, is given up to the readers, in their seminar rooms or carrels. One of those is the Johns Hopkins Library, and I believe the designer of that described it as "the apartment house library." The other is the library of the Negro Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee, which has a tower, and the tower has at each of its four corners a tourelle. One of the four tourelles carries the stairs and lifts, and the other three contain seminar rooms and the like. By this arrangement they have on any one floor books devoted to a particular subject—for instance, mediæval history—and on that floor seminar rooms and carrels for the scholars working on that subject. Grouped round the tower on the ground level are the general reading rooms and administrative offices. It is a superb plan.

The library which goes up into heaven—the modern Perpendicular Library style—is sufficiently well known; we have yet to see the library which goes down to the bowels of the earth, though I have heard rumours of that development in Paris, where they have a good



B\*



Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee. Built about 1931. Present stock 30,000 volumes with 150,000 capacity. The plan allows extension of stack upwards and of reading rooms outwards. All delivery from stack to issuing desk is vertical

chalk subsoil. The only example in this country is the rather unfortunate excavation into the water-level of the Cherwell and the Isis at Oxford by one of Dr. Craster's predecessors. But the library where, as is so often the case, it is on a site where lateral development is not possible—unless it is, as some forward-looking people suggest, to consist in the future solely of micro-films—must necessarily extend in the only other dimensions open to it, upwards and now also downwards; in fact, it is on the way to omnipresence: "If I climb up into Heaven, Thou art there; if I go down to Hell, Thou are there also."

I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Dod for his most interesting paper.

MR. E. J. CARTER (R.I.B.A. Librarian): The only reason I have for rising to-night is that, as both librarian and architect, I am in the position of a circus rider on two horses. If that is no guarantee of my ability as either, it is, in a sense, a qualification, because it makes me doubly interested in the necessity for co-operation between the two professions. In all these discussions, as Mr. Esdaile has pointed out, the reader is apt to be left out in the cold. That brings me to one of Mr. Dod's central points, the question of open access. He implied that England was the only remaining country in the world which went to any extremes to produce open access in its library plans. I think that the importance of open access is primarily a matter of facilities for the reader; almost every reader is happier if he is with the books, and almost every reader—with the exception, perhaps, of the expert research reader who is accustomed to the use of catalogues—finds it difficult to choose his books by reference to, it may be, several thousand cards, when all he wants is three or four books. If he goes to the shelves he can see what he wants and get it, and it is worth even some distortion of plan to achieve that, but *not*—and here I am entirely in agreement with Mr. Dod—by producing those radial shelf plans. The radial plan at Birkenhead which he showed us is marvellously well done; the architects of that building have made their structure conform to the lay-out of their bookshelves. What is deplorable—and it can be seen almost without exception in every public library in almost every little town in England—is to have an oblong room with radial shelves destroying any architectural quality of the room, and not, in my opinion, adding much to the supervision. Whenever I have been in one of those libraries I have felt an urge, which I seldom feel elsewhere, to steal a book, just to show that it can be done.

People now become excited about psychology and social reactions, but a great deal more might be done, I think, to free our ideas, to take, as it were, a dose of mental Eno's, and to look at library planning from an entirely different point of view. We see the birth of that freedom in Berne. We also find this open planning in some American libraries also. The architect's reason for that is that with an open plan elasticity is possible; the psychological advantage is that an open plan leads to an open mind, that the reader has a sense of freedom which is absent in confined spaces. In Berne you look through glass partitions; the furniture is the sturkiest, most more-than-Corbusier-like that I have seen anywhere else, but it fits in so well that you do not notice it; the whole thing is gloriously free and open and airy.

On the question of style, Mr. Dod admittedly was dealing primarily with University and large national libraries, but

the problem facing most of the architects working in this country, since they are not fortunate enough to have the big jobs, is principally that of building, or more probably hoping to build, little local libraries to house a few thousand books for a few hundred uninstructed readers. Open access is all the more necessary for uninstructed readers, but almost invariably the central point of making the library attractive is lost in favour of a sort of costive, big-wigged Corinthian column idea. I could name dozens of libraries which it is possible to tell from the rates office only because they happen to have the word "Library" written over the front. Architecture down the years has produced a type of building which can be recognised immediately as a church, and a type of building which can be recognised immediately as a railway station, and so on; but few people, except by the dominance of the stack, have produced a simple, straightforward building the face of which on the road will show it to be a library into which we want people to go. Some day we may have libraries with an entrance from the cinema on one side and the pub on the other, and if we do, I shall think then that the library world is becoming alive.

My final point is really, perhaps, the theme of this meeting, and it is that there are these two big professional groups, librarians and architects, and that they must get together. In the first place, they can get together only if, as Mr. Esdaile has pointed out, the local authorities or the library committees or whoever may be responsible allow them to do so; secondly, they can get together only if a conscious effort is made by the two professions concerned. The Library Association now has a Library Buildings Committee, which is still in its early days, but which I think is likely to do a great deal in the future. I think I am not wrong in speaking for librarians when I say that every librarian in the country who is in contact with the Library Association is keen to make use of architects' services, and is making a reasonable attempt to do so.

The problems which must be dealt with at some time or other by this Institute and by the architectural profession are not only the general problems of what are the true relations between the units and the plan, but the much more tricky questions of lighting, heating, ventilation, wall coverings, floor coverings, air conditioning, acoustics, and so on. When Mr. Snead Macdonald, the great American library expert, comes to this country, I hope we may be able to get him here to put us right on these points.

MR. BERWICK SAYERS (Chief Librarian, Croydon): If another librarian may add to the garrulity of librarians this evening, I should like, as a public librarian, to pay tribute to Mr. Dod's paper, an excellent paper most excellently illustrated. One point which he has stressed is that each library presents an individual problem. He spoke of the Birkenhead library, however, and compared it with the magnificent American libraries to which he has referred, but he forgot to inform us that the Birkenhead library is a *lending* library, which has to deal not with readers who come soft-footed to a place where "Silence" is written up everywhere, but with thousands of readers who come to choose books, including books of the most popular types, to take home; and it is in order to marshal those crowds in the quickest possible way that we want the radial plan at times. It is invaluable in certain circumstances, in spite of what my friend Mr. Carter—who has never run a public library, of course, but who is a very fine authority on planning—has said.

Mr. Summerson dealt with the problem of noise. Noise is of no consequence in a lending library at all, but in the

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reference library I have readers who come to me and complain of the quiet of the reference library ! One of them said to me only recently : " I was sitting in the room, and someone actually sneezed, and every reader in the room—and there must have been a hundred—stopped reading and looked at him. He was not led out to execution, as was expected, but it was punishment enough to be the centre of so much interest."

The problem of the library, as I think Mr. Esdaile has indicated, is how to get the book in the most rapid manner to the right reader. Mr. Dod's objection to the little railways that he found in the Library of Congress is answered by the glorious fact that the average time taken in the Library of Congress to get a book from stack to delivery point is less than four minutes. I think that that answers any criticism of the type of conveyor used there, a type which was first used there, and which has now been adopted in several libraries of the most modern sort.

As Mr. Carter has said, more public libraries will be built than libraries of any other type, and it is that type of library with which the ordinary architect—I do not mean ordinary-minded, because there is no such thing, but the average architect—will have to deal. What the average public librarian wants is a big, light, well ventilated, beautifully proportioned space, and we will do the rest with your help.

I am very much obliged to Mr. Dod, and also to the Institute, for giving me, as a librarian, the opportunity of being present on this most interesting occasion.

MR. H. M. FLETCHER [F.] : I have very little to say on this occasion, but I am much interested and delighted that Mr. Dod gave so much commendation to the library of Armstrong College, because it was my privilege to be the assessor in the competition which resulted in Dunbar Smith building that most beautiful library. After it was built, I remember Mr. Bradshaw, the librarian, telling me that he had had librarians from all over Europe to see it, and one and all of them said, when they went away, " Well, you have got the librarian's library." It is a small library, but I think it fulfils all the conditions necessary for success in library planning.

MR. JOHN SUMMERSON [A.] : I should like to offer a few remarks, speaking not as a designer or as a librarian, but as a user of libraries. I do not think Mr. Dod had much to say in favour of the circular reading room, but in my opinion there is a certain amount to be said for it from the psychological point of view, and in that respect the British Museum has an advantage over many other libraries. In a circular room concentration is very much easier than in a room of any other shape. I am not alone in thinking that ; it is, I believe, the experience of a great many people who use libraries a good deal. One loses one's sense of direction, and there is a feeling of unity, a static feeling, about the room which is psychologically well worth considering from the library designer's point of view.

Another thing which has not been mentioned this evening is the question of noise. I do not mean noise due to readers talking to each other and so on, so much as the curious fluttering noise which is produced by hundreds of books being examined and their pages turned, all over the room. In the British Museum it resembles the patter of rain, and has a sedative effect, but in the Record Office it is very much worse, because there people are dealing with parchments and

sheepskins and there is a continuous crackling. That, I think, presents an important problem in library design. The difficulty could be partially overcome by the use of proper sound-absorbing material. At Manchester every footfall echoes, which is distressing when one is reading for a long period.

In a great many libraries two readers are placed facing each other, and that is a very distressing thing. I know of one case which ended in marriage !

Mr. Carter has referred to the terrace of the library at Berne. It is excellent if a terrace or garden can be provided, and such a feature is especially valuable for those who have to cope with such things as statistics and work hard at them continuously. Research of that kind quickly brings on a headache, and it is really not a luxury but in fact a necessity in a large library to have some place where one can walk and smoke a cigarette before going back to one's work.

I should like, in conclusion, to mention one rather elderly library which has not so far been referred to. It is not very important, perhaps, but at the moment it is in the house-breaker's hands, and I think we might remember it. I refer to the library of the School of Oriental Studies, which was designed as the London Institution rather more than a hundred years ago. It might be called the prototype of our own library upstairs, for it has very much the same plan ; it is a most admirable piece of design.

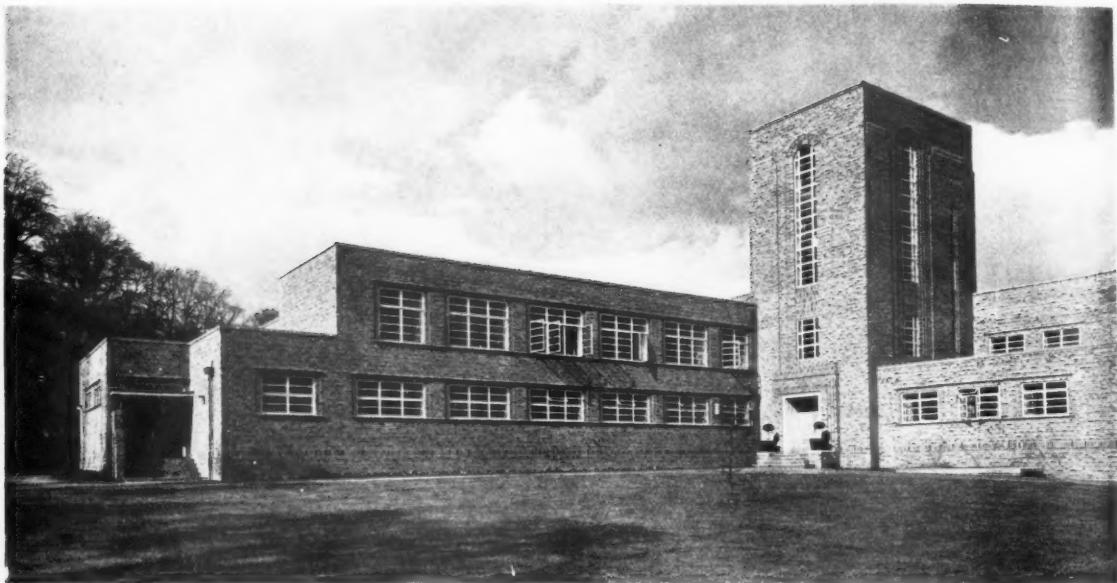
The vote of thanks was put by the Chairman, and carried unanimously, with acclamation.

MR. H. A. DOD (*in reply*) : I feel that I have been very rash to speak in the presence of such authorities as Dr. Craster, Mr. Esdaile and others ; however, I felt that I had something to say on the question of library planning. I did not know before that people complained of things in the British Museum ; I thought one accepted it as an institution ; but I suggest that Mr. Esdaile should go to the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, where on a busy day the interior of the reading room resembles an aviary, with people twittering about on little branches up above. When I had made a complete circuit of the galleries I felt that I ought to throw myself over from the top and have done with it, there was so much creaking and noise.

With regard to open access, people on the continent come and take books home exactly as they do here, but there they go directly to the catalogue. The average Englishman prefers to turn over the pages of a book a dozen times rather than look in the index, and will fumble in shelves for an hour instead of going to the catalogue. I do hope that an effort will be made in this country to close libraries.

The circular reading room has been referred to. The circular reading room is all right, of course, but the great difficulty is to relate it to the stack block. What can be done with it ? People have tried ; they have put it on top of the stacks, and, I believe, in one case underneath them, but it is almost an impossible shape with which to deal.

I feel that I have been dealt with very kindly and let off lightly by the experts, and I thank you very much for the way in which you have listened to me.

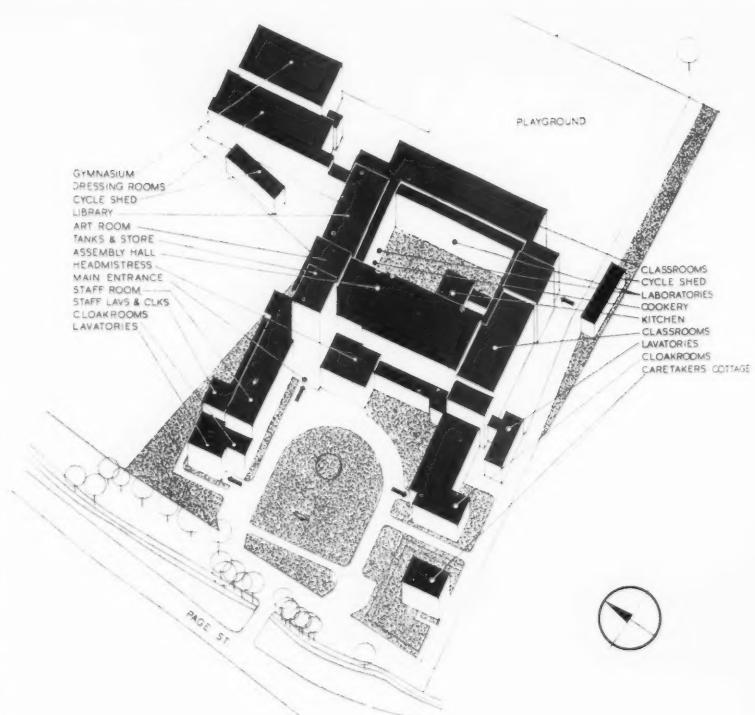


## MILL HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Architects: *W. T. Curtis [F.], County Architect; H. W. Burchett [A.], Assistant Architect for Educational Buildings*

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

This school follows the accepted general ideas in accommodation, planning and equipment as controlled by the Board of Education, but is of interest as a good and new expression of those ideas. It is planned for an annual entry of three new forms of 30 scholars each. The total accommodation is for approximately 477 scholars, a figure arrived at by taking the full accommodation of the ordinary class-rooms and half the accommodation of the special subject rooms, but this will vary with the number of scholars



staying on to the higher forms. The contract amount was £39,613.

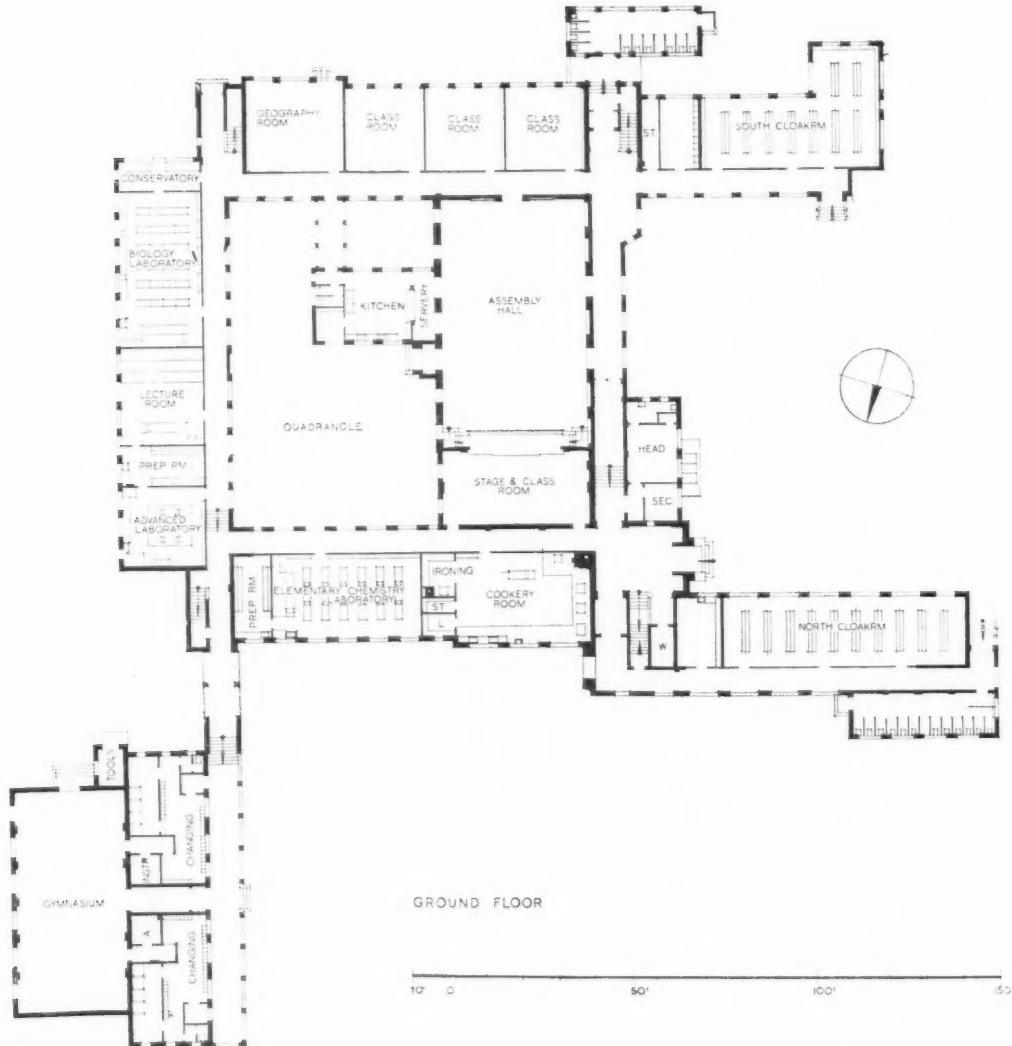
#### PLANNING

The site slopes gently from north to south and consists of a large area of back land and a smaller area having frontage on Page Street to the west. The buildings have been placed in the smaller area so as to leave as much land as possible for playing fields. These lie to the north, north-east and east of the gymnasium block and playground. The general layout of the buildings can be studied in the axonometric drawing which shows how they have been fitted into the more restricted part of the site.

The grouping of the main parts of the plan and the positions of the entrances should be observed. The principal entrance is in the base of the tower and there are two scholars' entrances at the ends of the projecting cloak-room wings. The general classrooms face east and

*Right : The tower and main entrance. The bricks are multicolour reds. Below : The building from the playing field on the north-east*





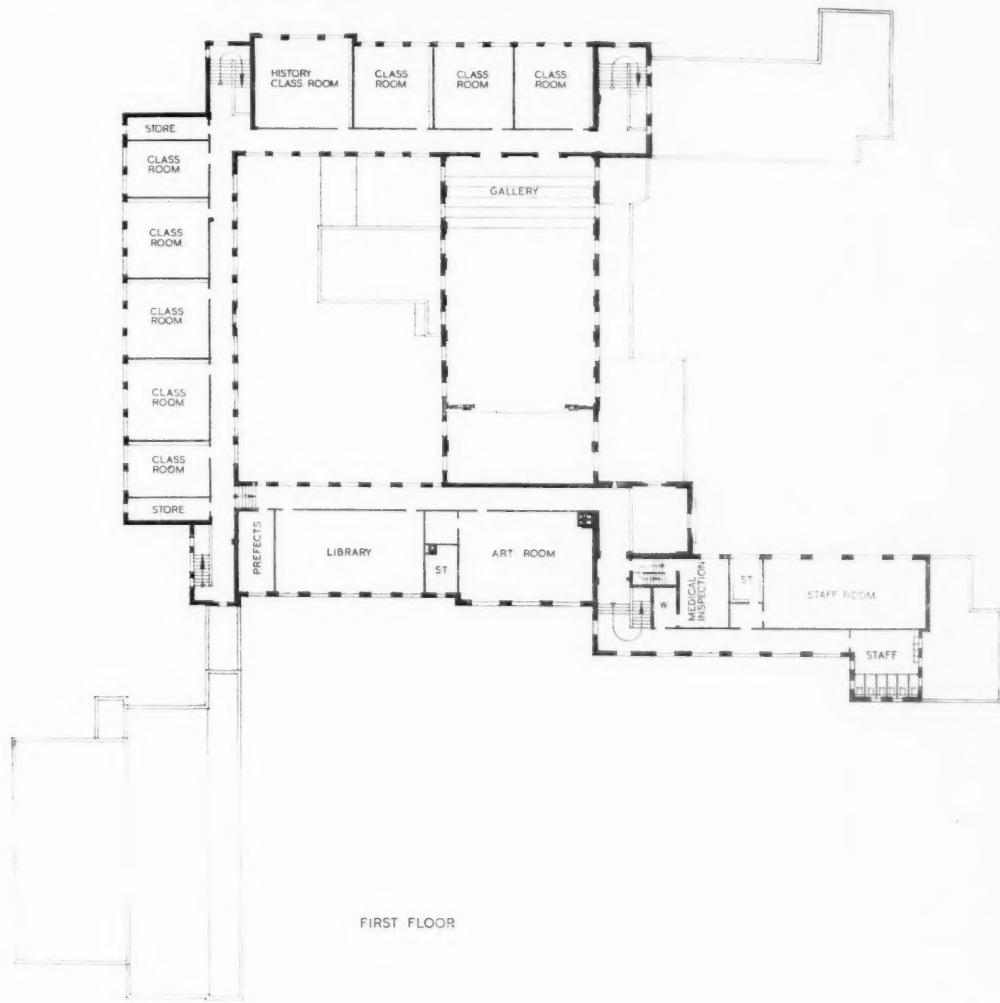
south and the special departments east and north. The gymnasium block is detached. The assembly hall partly fills the quadrangle between the corridors and the stage; the latter is usable as a classroom by being separated from the forestage by a top-hung sliding partition in four leaves.

#### STRUCTURE AND FINISH

The construction follows the lines evolved for all their recent school work by the Architect's department. This was described and illustrated in the JOURNAL of July 21 1934. Briefly, it consists of solid brick piers

with cavity wall filling, the flat slab reinforced concrete floors being supported internally on columns of the same material. All partitions are of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch brickwork. The flat roofs are covered with ply bituminous roofing and insulated with ballast. The tower is of solid brick walling.

The structural finish is simple. In most cases the walls are plastered; in the laboratories the brick is colour-washed. Floors are oak blocks in the class-rooms and red asphalte flooring in the corridors. The dadoes are in linoleum of a speckled dark stone colour



stuck to a cement screeded backing. The staircases are finished with granolithic and have non-slip tiles inset in the treads.

In the assembly hall the dado, doors, stage and sliding screen on the stage are of Australian walnut cross-banded; the coved skirting is of ebonised hard-wood. The main wall colour is cream and there are panels of buff acoustic plaster between the ceiling beams. The floor is of oak blocks.

The windows throughout are of steel, those in the classrooms being of horizontal centre-hung type above a

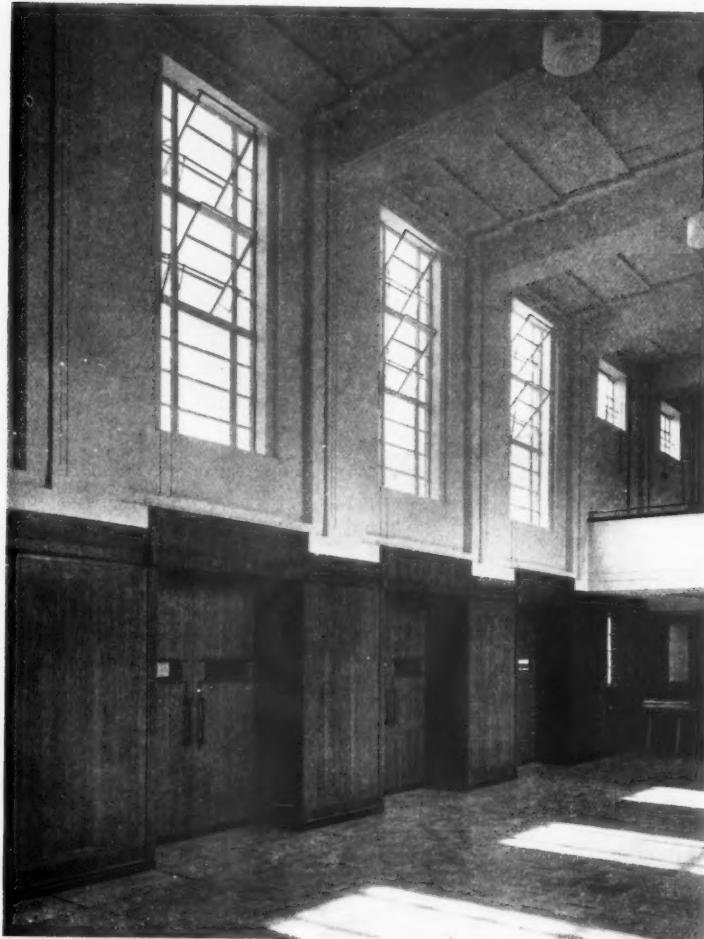
hopper light opening inwards. Heating is by low-pressure hot water radiators. The scheme includes a detached caretaker's cottage.

#### CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

GENERAL CONTRACTORS : John Laing & Son.

STRUCTURE : Facing bricks, The Dorking Brick Co. ; concrete reinforcement, The Indented Bar & Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd. ; steel windows, J. Gibbs, Ltd. ; asphalte, Salter, Edwards & Co., Ltd.

STRUCTURAL FINISH : Wood block flooring, Stevens and Adams, Ltd. ; coloured asphalte flooring, Limmer

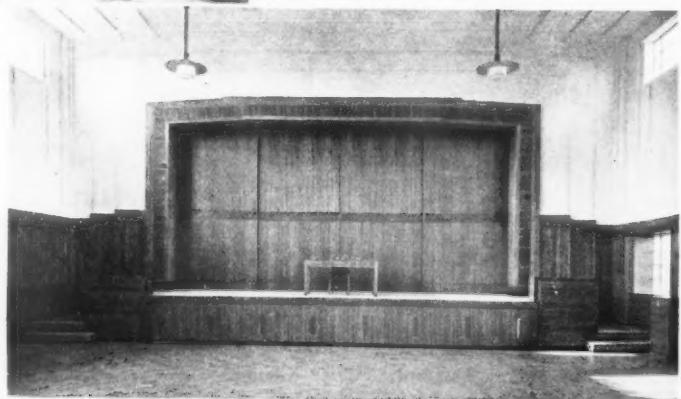


*A detail view of the assembly hall showing the Australian walnut dado and service doors to the kitchen. The floor is of oak blocks and the main wall colour is cream*

*The stage of the assembly hall. The main portion is usable as a classroom, the forestage being cut off by a top-hung sliding screen in four leaves*

and Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd. ; granolithic paving, Kendalls Paving Co., Ltd. ; tar paving, Tarpaving & Tarmacadam, Ltd. ; flush doors, Central Perivale, Ltd.

**EQUIPMENT :** Heating, Maddock & Wright, Ltd. ; electrical installation, F. Troy & Co., Ltd. ; gas services, North Middlesex Gas Co. ; general ironmongery, Carter & Aynsley, Ltd. ; sanitary fittings, T. A. Harris, Ltd. ; laboratory fittings, Bennet Furnishing Co., Ltd. ; gates, balustrading, etc., E. Munday, Ltd.



## The A.B.S. and Architects' Insurance

The Architects' Benevolent Society has promoted various schemes of Insurance for architects during the past twelve years. This is or should be known to every member, since every number of the JOURNAL concludes with a column of information about the A.B.S. schemes. Most members know about it, a few respond, but many more do nothing and wonder perhaps why the A.B.S. interests itself in a business affair such as insurance. There is, of course, one obvious reply, namely, that by introducing the insurance business of R.I.B.A. members to the companies who are co-operating with the A.B.S. the Society earns the commissions normally paid to an agency. This money goes directly to the benevolent funds of the Society. In the first year of the scheme it amounted to £43 14s. 4d., in the next year to £198, in 1926 it was £211, in 1928 £339, in 1929 £460, in 1932 £521, and last year £590.

All this money is an indirect contribution which members may make to the funds of the A.B.S., and is in itself a good enough reason why the A.B.S. schemes should be supported. But the A.B.S. realises, and has never thought otherwise, that the additions to its funds that it gets from these agency commissions cannot alone be a good reason for offering insurance schemes to the profession. There must be reason behind the insurance. Here, too, the question might be asked Why the A.B.S.? The answer is obvious enough. By insurance a member is doing for himself what, unless he is provident, the A.B.S. may have to do for him if he falls on lean years or is disabled by sickness. The Society has a direct duty to foster providence and cannot neglect the means offered by insurance. It might be said that every architect who takes out endowment, life or professional indemnity insurance is making a twofold contribution to the A.B.S., first by means of the agency commission, and secondly because by providing for his own emergencies, he is relieving the A.B.S. of a possible future debit item in its books. That is why, when proposals for architects' insurance were first made to the R.I.B.A. Council in 1923 the matter was passed to the A.B.S., who immediately formed an insurance sub-committee with Mr. Maurice Webb, the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, as Chairman. The sub-committee were able to enlist the help of various insurance companies and to have as advisory members a number of leading members of the insurance profession.

The reason for this article is solely that hitherto response to the schemes has not been nearly as good as it might, despite the obvious merits of the schemes from both members' and A.B.S. points of view, and despite the continual and considerable publicity which they have been given in this JOURNAL and elsewhere.

During 1935 the Society's total income from all sources was only £3,672, and it is used in awarding pensions and grants, most of which are small. The A.B.S. Council feel that an additional income of £1,000 per annum should not be difficult to attain if the agency were more widely known and more warmly supported. One thousand pounds per annum can be of as much use to the Society's benevolent work as a lump sum donation of £30,000 invested in trustee investments. The least we can suggest now is that each of the schemes very briefly outlined below should be considered by members of the Institute. Because it deals with business in bulk the A.B.S. is able to obtain terms of insurance definitely better than those which can normally be obtained outside. Consequently it is worth emphasis that the more members support these schemes the better the rates can be.

### A.B.S. SCHEMES

**PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY.**—There was an article on this in the JOURNAL some months ago.\* No form of insurance is more necessary, none is less easy or more expensive to obtain, simply because architects, individualists always, will not take up indemnity insurance in sufficient numbers to make it possible for the companies to give really favourable rates. This is a vicious circle which can be broken by the A.B.S. if the Society gets the support it asks for. The value of an indemnity insurance to architects to protect him against charges arising from his professional work—defects in his buildings, negligence and legal claims—is beyond question. Claims are settled as privately as possible, which may prevent their prevalence from being recognised. This prevalence, however, is not a matter of assumption, but is established by the result of many years insurance experience. The increasing frequency of claims makes it a matter of prudence that all architects should seek this form of protection, and if all members of the R.I.B.A. would agree to co-operate there is no doubt that a suitable scheme could be devised at a very reasonable cost.

Most people know of the power and success of the Medical Defence Union in this country. The A.B.S. professional indemnity scheme could, perhaps, achieve the same ends for architects if, and only if, it is given wide support.

**HOUSE PURCHASE.**—The first special scheme to be formed was the house purchase scheme whereby mortgage loans are arranged with an insurance company for architects and their clients. The scheme applies both to houses in course of erection and to the purchase of houses already built. Eighty per cent. of the value

\* 5 February 1935.

of the property to be mortgaged is advanced at 4½ per cent. interest gross, and the loan is repaid by means of an endowment assurance spread over a period of 15 to 20 years. In the event of the death of the assured, the mortgage loan is immediately paid off by the endowment assurance. There are no survey fees or office legal charges payable by the borrower.

**PENSION AND FAMILY PROVISION SCHEME.**—This scheme is perhaps the kernel of the provident side of A.B.S. insurance and the one most closely related to the benevolent work of the Society. The advantage of this scheme over former pension schemes is that it provides, in addition to a pension, an income for the widow if the architect should die before retiring age. If, for example, an architect who is paying for pension and family provision insurance of £100 a year should die at 40, his wife will receive £100 for the next 25 years, *i.e.*, until he would have attained pension age if he had lived. At the end of that time she has the choice of accepting a cash sum of £1,000 or a pension of £76 10s.

**GROUP SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT POLICY.**—This, also benevolent in its operation, is the latest scheme to be put forward by the Committee. It provides an income in the event of any kind of illness or accident, as well as a lump sum payment in the event of a fatal accident.

Individual policies providing the same benefits are not offered elsewhere at such a low cost.

**MOTOR CAR INSURANCE.**—The A.B.S. Insurance Committee have also worked out a special motor car insurance policy. This policy is particularly attractive from the standpoint of low premium rates and accumulative no claim bonus which rises from 20 per cent. to 33½ per cent. in the third year.

These are "special" schemes; in addition to these the A.B.S. Insurance Department will negotiate all types of insurance—life, endowment, fire, employers' liability, household protection and all other kinds.

There is no reason whatever why the A.B.S. income from its insurance business should not increase many fold. Every penny it gets is used for the benefit of the profession, and every member of the profession may one day find it necessary to call in the Society's aid.

The saying that who gives quickly gives twice cannot perhaps be applied here, because there is no question of a gift; perhaps we can say, however, that who insures quickly insures twice—first, he gets the direct benefits of his insurance scheme, and, secondly, he gets the defence he is building up to help him in his old age, sickness or poverty when and if they come—a strong, prosperous A.B.S.

## The Royal Academy

Each year the Royal Academy Exhibition brings the critic a task much more difficult than the criticism of any ordinary show. The Architectural Room at the Academy has no positive clues which he may follow. It has, for instance, no educational purpose in the manner of the modern exhibitions to educate the masses or satisfy scholars. It represents no positive school of thought; the selection committee, like a National Government, does its best to meet all but progressive opinion with such tolerance that few signs of exact critical judgment are apparent. There is too much here that has no other claim to attention whatever beyond the fact that it is big and, according to the measure of Philistine opinion, important. Work which, for instance, would never by the foggiest chance find its way into one of the R.I.B.A.'s exhibitions of contemporary work but which here is honoured beyond its deserts. There is too much work of those who are now using the stylistic clichés of modernity. Invariably they fail. In work of this type there is none of the synthesis of modern building which can be seen in simple form in Professor Adshead's Eton Manor Boys' Club or in some of Burnet, Tait & Lorne's buildings. In its most superficial form it is simply a business of running windows round corners to satisfy an ignorant popular taste for something which seems new and "snappy," but the characteristics of this work are not all so superficial as that.

The critic who despairs of finding stylistic coherence or even a high general standard of quality cannot get much more help from the extent to which the exhibition is representative of the types of work now being done in this country. He cannot expect it; the Academy can choose only from what it is offered. Housing for instance is almost completely unrepresented, although nationally—and internationally—there is no work of greater importance being done here now. Private houses have more space than their importance would justify even if the vitally significant work of the younger English school was represented. There are more exhibits of stained glass windows than of any single type of building except the private houses, though since almost without exception they are badly hung and shown in small drawings the space they occupy is no great loss to architecture.

No generalisations then can be based on this exhibition, no grandiose conclusions, because the chances are that the most significant examples will not be here. The most the critic can do is to deliver a few detached opinions which he may somehow succeed in relating to each other.

To deal first with the work of the Academicians. The largest picture is of Mr. Vincent Harris's Government Buildings. A classical hive for the Air Ministry, the Ministry of Transport and Board of Trade. It would be difficult to choose three departments whose buildings it would seem could less suitably be roofed with classic colonnaded temples. We

may regret the necessity, since we must judge it so, of internal courtyards, but perhaps since one department deals with air, another with widespread traffic routes on land and the last with overseas trade their employees are presumed to have their minds sufficiently elevated with thoughts of wide-open spaces. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott has two exhibits, a business building in Bristol and his brewery for Messrs. Guinness, to which he has succeeded in giving vast scale and yet modifying it by his characteristic touches. It needs only slight acquaintance with Sir Giles' work to be able to recognise this great building as his. It is a sobering thought that such a genial accompaniment of life as stout needs such a fortress of industry for its brewing. Sir Edwin Cooper exhibits a nurses' home for St. Mary's Hospital shown in a drawing which displays its masses unkindly. His other buildings include a Health Centre for Marylebone. Mr. Curtis Green, with various constellations of partners, shows several buildings, including a lounge in the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, with unfortunately no signs in the drawing of any facilities for lounging. He also shows his design of the extension to Scotland Yard which will stand between Norman Shaw's building and Mr. Vincent Harris's Government Building. Professor Richardson, new A.R.A., and his partner, Mr. Lovett Gill, show three buildings: the garden front of the Jockey Club at Newmarket, a pavilion at Ascot, and buildings for Ripon Hall, Oxford. All these, particularly the first two, show how lightly scholarship can be carried when it is part and parcel of building. Without any striving after effect these buildings manage to be distinguished.

The firm headed by Sir John Burnet, Burnet, Tait & Lorne, shows two buildings; one, the new Burlington School for Girls, seems too conscious of the ingenuity of its intersecting cubes and planes and cantilevers; it is "busy" despite the essential simplicity of its parts, but this may be an effect due more to its overpowering presentation than to the qualities of the building. The nurses' home for the Masonic Hospital seems much better and is an excellent example of this firm's characteristic manner. Mr. Dawber, besides exhibits in the painting exhibition, shows as Diploma work one house, Ashley Chase, Dorset, in his friendliest country manner, and Sir Edwin Cooper shows a view of Gatton Park. Sir Reginald Blomfield's only architectural exhibit is a large Fairey drawing of Piccadilly Circus as it might be with buildings in the manner of Swan & Edgar's shop on all sides. Sir Herbert Baker, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Mr. A. J. Davis do not exhibit this year.

There can only be a small selection made from the works of other exhibitors. Mr. Holden shows two excellent drawings of London University, neither hung with the prominence they deserve either as pictures or as representations of so great a building. An aerial view by Mr. Hutton was the headpiece in the last JOURNAL. Mr. Myerscough-Walker's night view is a tour-de-force of draughtsman's skill which uses the building as a means rather than an end; it exhibits the draughtsman's superb skill but adds nothing to our knowledge

of the building except a vague view of a piece of sculpture. What, we wonder, has Mr. Holden in store for us here? Professor Adshead's Eton Manor Boys' Club is one of the liveliest, most charming things in the whole exhibition; needless to say it is shown in one of his own drawings which is as good as the building; needless to say, also, it is not on the line. Here is direct architecture, neat, free from clichés of modernism or any other 'ism, classicism included, but it is exactly right. It inherits style by being a child not only of its time but of its author.

Civic building is well represented by several town hall designs. The best two are by Messrs. James & Pierce, whose buildings for the Hertfordshire C.C. and Wood Green Borough Council follow their Norwich manner, which is a logical extension of Mr. James's domestic manner into bigger building; despite the incursion of some Scandinavian quality it remains essentially Southern English. Among the best of the buildings in the Civic class is Mr. Cowles-Voysey's Municipal Buildings, Watford. He, too, like Messrs. James & Pierce, maintains his faith in the type of building which he can do so excellently. This kind of work commands respect, it has such complete artistic integrity that it will be a long time before it is outworn and then it will be beaten not by the architecture of defeat which merely makes concessions to modernism.

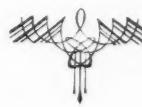
There are many schools and universities; two by Mr. R. Fielding Dodd for Stowe, an art school and a new house, one standing free from old or highly stylised buildings and quietly functional, the other relating itself to definite classical neighbours. Messrs. Knapp Fisher, Powell and Russell show a scheme of six houses in an open court for the Imperial Service College, Windsor; this is a cleverly presented elevational perspective and incidentally is one of the few exhibits with a plan included. Mr. W. G. Newton shows a similar kind of drawing for classrooms at Marlborough.

The domestic works are many and various, almost without exception they are good examples of the traditional mode of English house building and give no evidence of the violence and importance of the movements of English architecture. One other building which deserves comment is Mr. de Soisson's St. Austell Bay Hotel, shown in a delightful drawing by Mr. N. C. Westwood. Incidentally this is Mr. Harvey's year as winning draughtsman; every wall has examples of his lively brush and all succeed in representing their subjects sympathetically and modestly.

This cannot be described as an exhilarating Academy. To the profession at least the best works are already well known through drawings in the professional press, and there are no pleasant surprises.

The Hanging Committee have been at pains to arrange the pictures as well as possible in balanced pyramidal order on each wall—the only unfortunate result is that an interesting oil painting of the interior of Guildford Cathedral by Mr. Maufe provided such a good apex to one wall that it is skied almost beyond vision.

E. J. C.



## REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS

*This series is compiled from all sources contributing technical information of use to architects. These sources are principally the many research bodies, both official and industrial, individual experts and the R.I.B.A. Science Standing Committee. Every effort is made to ensure that the information given shall be as accurate and authoritative as possible. Questions are invited from readers on matters covered by this section; they should be addressed to the Technical Editor. The following are addresses and telephone numbers which are likely to be of use to those members seeking technical information. There are many other bodies dealing with specialised branches of research whose addresses can be obtained from the Technical Editor. We would remind readers that these bodies exist for the service of Architects and the Building Industry and are always pleased to answer enquiries.*

*The Director, The Building Research Station, Garston, Nr. Watford, Herts. Telegrams: "Research Phone Watford." Office hours, 9.30 to 5.30. Saturdays 9 to 12.30.*

*The Director, The Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, Bucks. Telephone: Princes Risborough 101. Telegrams: "Timberlab Princes Risborough." Office hours, 9.15 to 5.30. Saturdays 9.15 to 12.*

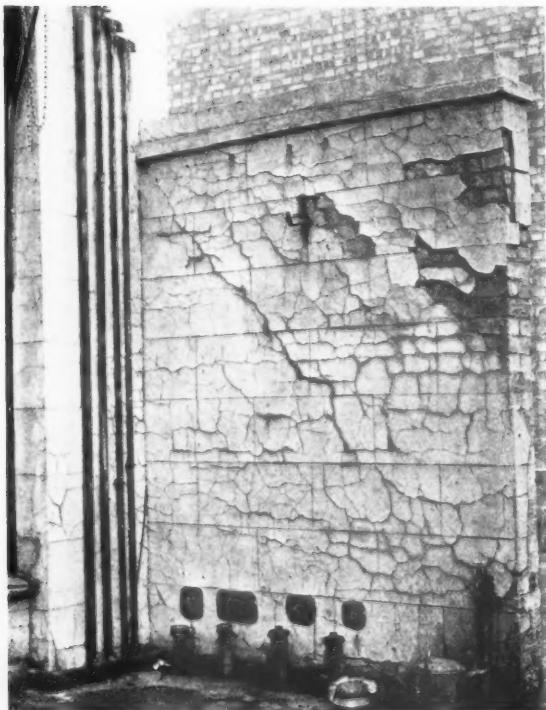
*The Director, The British Standards Institution, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 3127 and 3128. Telegrams: "Standards Sowest London." Office hours, 9.30 to 5. Saturdays 9.30 to 12.30.*

*The Technical Manager, The Building Centre Ltd., 158 New Bond Street, London, W.1. Telephone: Regent 2701, 2705. Office hours, 10 to 6. Saturdays 10 to 1.*

### RENDERINGS

#### FAILURES OF EXTERNAL CEMENT RENDERINGS ASSOCIATED WITH BRICKS CONTAINING SULPHATES, PARTICULARLY CALCIUM SULPHATE

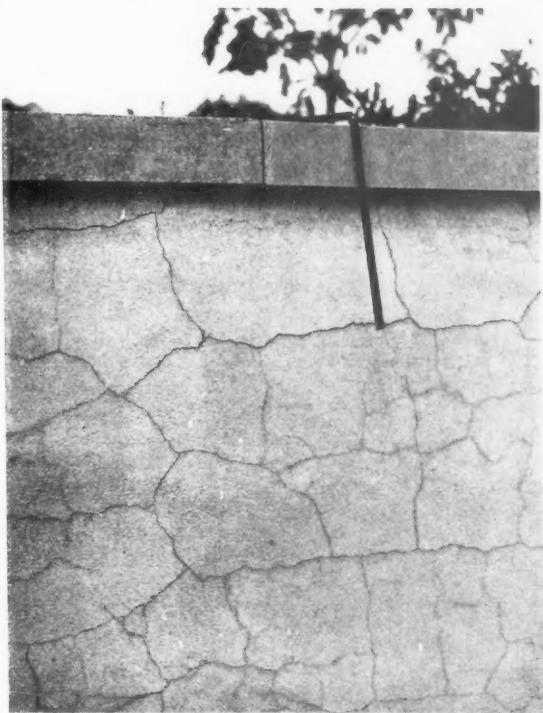
*Specially contributed by the Building Research Station*



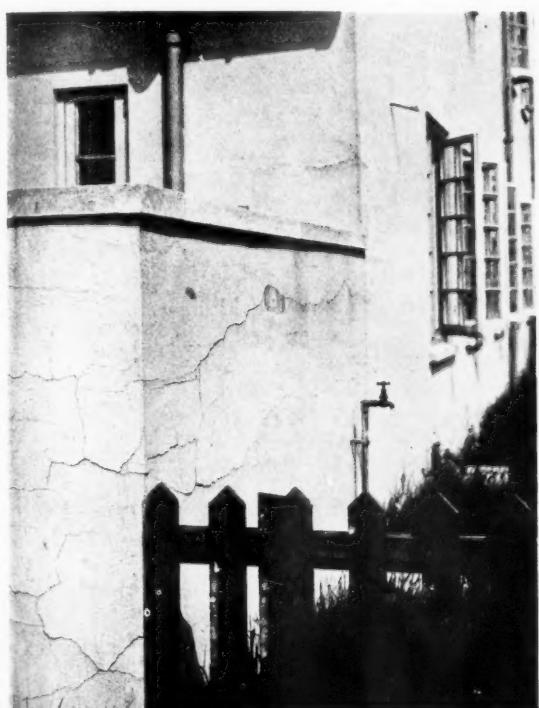
External cement renderings have in the past been liable to a great many troubles of one kind or another, crazing, cracking, discoloration, and even in some cases efflorescence. There is much to be said on the subject of the defects enumerated, but the object of this note is to deal with one particular type of failure which, as a general rule, is more complete and more disastrous. It sometimes happens, when a cement rendering is applied over brickwork containing an abnormally high proportion of sulphates, and particularly when the design of the building and the conditions at the time the work is carried out are such that water gains access to the brickwork, that the sulphates attack the cement in the rendering, and when this happens the rendering disintegrates completely and ultimately may fall away from the wall, leaving a mushy paste on the face of the wall which is usually found to consist mainly of calcium sulphate. It is often found in such cases that repeated attempts to renew the renderings are unsuccessful, and finally some very expensive and complicated treatment is necessary to obtain a dry wall of reasonably good appearance.

In the last ten years a considerable number of failures of this kind has been investigated by the Building Research Station, perhaps some twenty in all. While it is not suggested that the trouble is a very common one, yet, nevertheless, when this type of failure does happen it is so exceedingly troublesome that it is felt that the attention of the industry should be drawn to it.

Investigation of a number of cases has shown that



*The photographs reproduced on this and the opposite page illustrate failures of external cement renderings associated with bricks containing sulphates, particularly calcium sulphate*



this trouble is due to several factors acting in conjunction :—

- (1) The presence of an abnormal proportion of sulphates in the brickwork.
- (2) The presence of a high moisture content in the brickwork due to :—
  - (a) Water absorbed during building operations, as for instance when work is carried out in very inclement weather.
  - (b) Absorption of water after erection due to certain features in design which will be discussed later.
  - (c) Absorption of water due to lack of a damp-proof course.
- (3) The use of unsuitable mixes for the rendering, in particular strong, dense materials with heavily trowelled finishes.

Considering these factors separately, the Building Research Station has collected a considerable amount of information on the presence of sulphates in bricks. Many bricks in common use—imported bricks, Flettons, many local stocks, and wirecuts—have been found to contain varying amounts, occasionally in quantities sufficient to constitute a definite danger to applied renderings. At first sight it would seem that all such

bricks should be condemned out of hand, since the defect often results from the fact that the bricks are insufficiently fired in view of the composition of the clay. On further reflection, however, it is desirable to consider whether the precautions in manufacture which would be necessary to eliminate the possibility of an excessive sulphate content would close to the building industry large sources of supply of cheap and useful bricks, and the object of this note is certainly not to produce any result of this kind. If we are to admit the position that common brickwork may occasionally contain a dangerous proportion of sulphates, and under present conditions this seems inevitable, then the possibility of failure must be guarded against by precautions in use. Despite this, however, it is not unreasonable to ask of manufacturers that in the course of the development and improvement of their processes they should devote much more attention to the reduction of sulphate content wherever possible.

The question of precautions to be observed in use introduces the second of the factors enumerated above, namely, access of moisture. All the disastrous failures which have been investigated at the Building Research Station have had the common feature of gross penetration of moisture into the brickwork. This has occurred in a variety of ways, but mostly due to the formation of cracks in the rendering or to defects in the covering of horizontal surfaces such as parapets, cornices and strings. In no case investigated has the more disastrous type of failure been found to occur on the walls of a building with a reasonably generous eaves overhang. In many of the buildings examined it has been evident that failure commenced at parapets or cornices and gradually extended down the wall as the rendering deteriorated progressively and allowed increasing amounts of moisture to enter the brickwork. Garden walls built without a damp-proof course and wing walls have been a prolific source of failures of this kind. A number of examples is illustrated in the photographs here reproduced.

The fact that these failures are more common in buildings finished with parapets, cornices and similar features, without eaves projection, is a matter for apprehension at the present time, since the so-called "modern" type of building is becoming increasingly popular. It is not the object of this note to enter into a controversy on matters aesthetic, but it does seem proper to state that a style of building which seems originally to have been the outcome of skilful design in reinforced concrete may be somewhat unsuitable for traditional materials.

The record in this country of smoothly trowelled, dense external renderings is not a happy one. An unsightly pattern of surface crazing is a very common phenomenon, and this often develops into a system of major cracks spaced more widely, which extend right through to the brickwork. When renderings crack in this way it usually happens that the wall becomes very

wet, due to the penetration of rain at the cracks. When dry weather follows a wet period, however, the removal of water by evaporation from the face of the wall is retarded and there is a tendency for the brickwork to remain water-logged, a condition which leads to further deterioration of the rendering by purely physical effects, and, in the event of the presence of sulphates in the brickwork, chemical attack is also likely to take place. It is a matter of common observation that roughcast and pebble dashed finishes are not usually marred to the same extent by major cracks, probably because the volume changes due to changes in moisture content are distributed in very small cracks round individual particles of aggregate in these less compact materials.

#### *Precautions Desirable to Obviate the Risk of Failures*

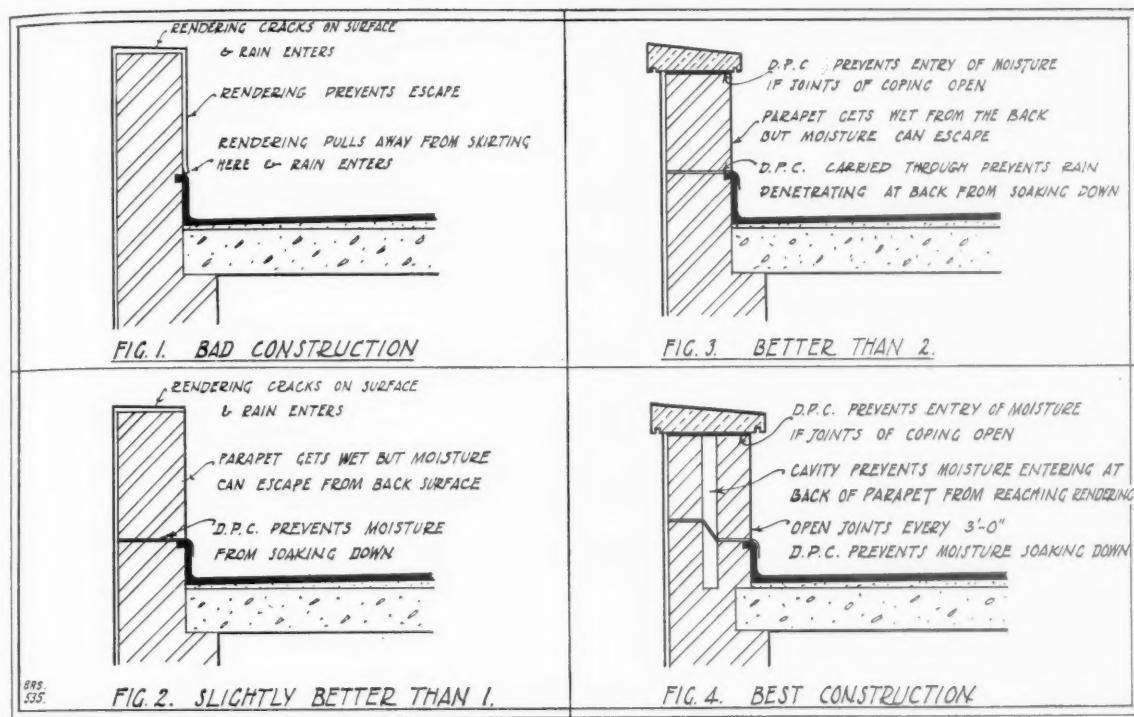
A certain vigilance is called for on the part of the user to detect the presence of excessive salt content in bricks. This is a question which it is felt does not always receive as much consideration as it should. It is very rare nowadays to find bricks of inadequate strength and almost equally rare to find bricks so under-fired that this defect is at once obvious to the eye. Yet it is believed that many architects and builders are satisfied if they can assure themselves that bricks are strong and apparently hard fired. If inquiry is made of the manufacturer or merchant as to the sulphate content of his bricks it will, at any rate, result in calling the manufacturer's attention to a property of his product which is of vital importance. Bricks made from clay having a high content of magnesia may appear reasonably well fired, though containing actually a proportion of magnesium sulphate capable of destroying cement rendering or lime plaster.

Several observations can be made by the prospective user which will throw some light on the soluble salt content of the bricks produced by some particular manufacturer.

(1) An inspection may be made of buildings already erected in the same bricks. Heavy efflorescence is often an indication that bricks are at fault, though not inevitably so, since the use of unsuitable mortar may contribute to efflorescence.

(2) If bricks in the stack show a heavy efflorescence when they are drying after a rainy season this is almost a certain indication of the presence of efflorescent salts.

(3) A simple test can be made by the architect or builder himself. If a brick be stood on end in a shallow tray containing distilled water, the water will rise in the brick by capillary forces and will be evaporated at the exposed faces. If soluble salts are present they will be carried in solution to the exposed faces, where they will be deposited as the water evaporates. The strict interpretation of a test of this kind demands a considerable amount of experience, and control of the experimental conditions which can hardly be expected outside a laboratory, but, nevertheless, it may afford a useful indication that caution is necessary.



Good and bad parapet construction

It is necessary to state precisely that the observations referred to above can provide only a general indication of the suitability or otherwise of the bricks. If, in (1), (2) or (3) above an efflorescence occurs, the bricks may reasonably be suspected, though not necessarily condemned. A proportion of sulphates sufficient to cause a marked efflorescence may be quite insufficient to cause injury to renderings. On the other hand, the absence of efflorescence does not imply that the bricks are safe. In some semi-dry bricks the sulphate is present as calcium sulphate. This does not form an efflorescence, but is quite capable of injuring a rendering. Where such observations fail to furnish sufficient information it is desirable to obtain a chemical analysis showing the proportion of water-soluble sulphates. On the basis of such an analysis an expert is able to form an opinion as to the likelihood of failure, but, since many factors are involved, it is not possible to lay down an arbitrary limit for the sulphate content.

In order to minimise the risk of penetration of moisture into the completed brickwork the following details should be considered:—

(a) *Parapets.* As has been stated, it is very frequently at parapets that cracking of the rendering commences, and these probably present the most difficult problem.

A weathered coping is desirable. The traditional forms having throats, drips, etc., have much to commend them. With many forms of coping, however, there is the possibility that joints may open, which will allow moisture to enter the wall, and the use of a reliable damp-proof course immediately under the coping is to be preferred. In Vienna, where external rendering is used almost universally for buildings of all kinds, it is the invariable rule to use a metal covering (usually zinc sheet) on the tops of parapets, window sills and all horizontal surfaces. We must assume this to be the outcome of a fund of experience in the weathering of renderings which is almost unrivalled in its scope.

The treatment of the back of the parapet is of major importance. This is sometimes left untreated, is sometimes rendered and sometimes treated in some other manner with a view to preventing the entry of moisture. Were it possible to rely on the rendering on the outer face to exclude all moisture the best practice would no doubt be to allow the parapet brickwork to dry thoroughly and then to waterproof the top and back of the parapet completely by means of reliable damp-proof courses. Such an ideal is, however, unattainable in practice, and a rendering or thin coating of tar or bitumen on the back of the

parapet is probably more harmful than beneficial, as it may allow the entry of a certain amount of moisture, but renders its escape practically impossible, resulting eventually in a water-logged wall. In the case of a solid parapet the best course is probably to leave the back exposed, for even though moisture may then penetrate from behind it also has ready escape.

There is no doubt, however, that the most satisfactory construction of all is the use of a cavity wall in which the cavity is carried up to the underside of the coping. Even in conjunction with a solid wall advantage can be derived from a hollow parapet when this can be arranged.

In the case of a flat roof the junction of the roof covering and the parapet is a vulnerable point. There is usually some form of a skirting which is tucked into the wall, and quite often a damp-proof course is inserted at this level. This is a useful precaution, since it protects the main body of the wall from the possibility of damp penetration through any defects at the top. On the other hand, if the rendering cracks and becomes detached above the level of this damp-proof course the trouble may readily spread further down, since this damp-proof course is not in general carried through the thickness of the rendering. Some suggestions for dealing with these details are given in the sketches in Figs. 1 to 4.

(b) *Cornices, Strings and Other Projections.* These can be carried out in such a variety of ways that it is difficult to make definite recommendations which would fit all cases. It is suggested, however, that there are strong arguments in favour of weathering all the upper surfaces, and these should be covered in the traditional manner with an impervious membrane of lead, copper or asphalt. On the underside emphasis must be given to the importance of well-formed drips and throatings.

Under the most favourable conditions a successful rendering on brickwork depends upon uniform and good adhesion, since, without the restraint afforded by the brickwork, the drying shrinkage of the rendering

would inevitably lead to serious cracking. Any precautions, therefore, which can be taken to improve the adhesion of the rendering to the brickwork are probably well worth while, since the risk of cracking and subsequent moisture access will be reduced. There are certain obvious expedients, such as raking out joints, and the use of a proportion of grooved or keyed bricks where it is known that the type of brick used is one to which it is difficult to obtain good adhesion.

It may be found that certain bricks have a smooth, dense surface which is almost "oily" in character; sometimes this particular type of surface texture only appears in kiss marks, but in any case, where it is suspected that the bricks are not ideal, some treatment in the form of a mechanical key is likely to be helpful. One building contractor, with a very large experience of housing work, took the precaution of building into his wall rough stock bricks, about 1 ft. to 18 ins. apart, in Fletton brickwork, which was to be finished with rendering and roughcast. Ten thousand houses which were treated in this way have given no cause for complaint, but it must be noted that the houses had pitched roofs and normal eaves projections.

Finally, the composition and method of application of the rendering must be considered. Modern developments in various European countries and experimental work at the Building Research Station indicate that porous, open-textured finishes are to be preferred to dense, heavily trowelled work in strong mixes. Direct evidence of the relative vulnerability of porous and dense mixes to sulphate attack is not yet available, but for finishing coats at any rate there is every reason to adopt the weaker mix. The tendency towards the formation of large cracks by which rain must penetrate to the brickwork is reduced with the weaker mixes, and, perhaps even more important, the porous surface allows of the absorption of rain in a heavy squall where it would form a continuous sheet of water on a dense surface, a condition which predisposes to heavy localised penetration where there are serious cracks.

## SUCCESSFUL EXCLUSION OF NOISE

The exclusion of noise from buildings by means of double windows, in conjunction with air-conditioning, has frequently been advocated. But hitherto it has been tried only on a small scale in this country. Although several complete buildings have been so treated in America, there is only one such in this country. Recently the technical Press were invited to inspect this building—the Berkeley Hotel in Piccadilly—in which the conversion and redecoration work has been carried out under the direction of Messrs. Stanley Hall and Easton & Robertson [FF].

The site, on the corner of Piccadilly and Berkeley Street, is one of the noisiest in London. The street traffic is very heavy throughout the day and continues in varying degrees during the night. Before alteration the hotel had been fitted with double wooden windows, but these had to be

opened to allow of proper ventilation, and even when they were closed the noise of traffic penetrated the rooms with disturbing effect. The "subject" was therefore an excellent one for experiment.

The work consisted first in replacing the wooden windows with heavy steel (stainless steel) casements, each opening being fitted with two separate similar casements, three inches apart. The glazing is  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plate, bedded in chamois leather and mastic. A typical light consists of a pair of tall casements (each about 5 feet by 2 feet), with a centre mullion, and having a pair of smaller opening lights above a transom. All casements open in and are secured by espagnilette bolts, which not only fasten at top and bottom but also in the middle on an ordinary type of casement fastener hook opposite the lever handle. The bolt and

socket surfaces are slightly tapered so that they give a wedging action, tightly shutting the casement against the frame. Glazing bars have been omitted to allow a good view of the street. The windows were made by Messrs. Henry Hope and Sons.

The air-conditioning plant has been placed near the roof and the difficulty of concealing trunking in an existing building has been largely overcome by using the flues of the existing fireplaces with which most of the bedrooms were equipped. The coal-burning fires have been replaced with electric fires, and the usual exit for the conditioned air is from the top of the projecting overmantel.

The results are astonishing and have to be experienced to be fully appreciated. Even the high-pitched notes of motor horns are completely excluded; the worst rooms, those on the corner, which are fitted with three large windows, experience a very faint hum. That is not disturbing and certainly would not prevent sleep. It seems likely that the faint humming sound is mostly structure-borne; indeed a slight vibration can be just discerned with the tips of the fingers placed on rigid projections such as the casement fasteners.

It should be realised that the structure is mainly solid brickwork, which undoubtedly helps to damp down structure-borne noise. It is possible that results would not be so good with a modern light steel-framed or reinforced concrete building, though even in these cases adequate defence might be provided by insulating the building from the ground, as

was done in the case of the L.P.T.B. headquarters building in Westminster. In that building the railway tunnel passing under it was surrounded by a two-inch layer of tar macadam.

The exclusion of street noises was inclined to bring into prominence the internal noises of the hotel, such as the kitchens and restaurant orchestra. The corridors have therefore been thickly carpeted, silent switches have been provided throughout, and a few of the bedrooms immediately over the restaurant have had their floors insulated with quilting. The close and heavy carpeting of the floors in the bedrooms also assists in the sound insulation.

The remarkable success of this experiment gives ground for a belief that effective exclusion of street noises need not be so difficult technically nor so costly to achieve as has been generally anticipated. Where a new building is planned to be equipped with air-conditioning, any increase in structural cost should be negligible. The requirements for the double windows are that they should be airtight, rigid and heavy.

It is not unlikely that this will be common practice in town hotels and the more expensive blocks of flats in the near future. The management of the Berkeley Hotel also report greatly increased cleanliness of the interior owing to the exclusion of London smoke; substantial savings in redecoration and cleaning costs are anticipated.

The engineering work was carried out under the direction of the hotel's engineer, Mr. F. C. Pay. The air-conditioning plant was executed by Messrs. J. Jefferys & Co., Ltd.

## ARCHITECTS' PAINT TROUBLES

We all know too well troubles with paints in these days of hurry. The work must be finished, the building beautiful must be formally opened or immediately occupied for financial reasons, and if the walls are not dry—well—the architect can look after things like this. For some years there has been a Paint Research Association near Teddington Station, one of the D.S.I.R. Research Associations, which, supported by trade interests and Government grant, has been investigating paints generally, while the Building Research Station, better known to architects, at Watford, has been making tests on a limited scale on the behaviour of paint on different surfaces. These two centres have recently combined in the formation of a panel to organize investigation in this last-named field, which, given the use of reputable paints, is really the centre of most troubles, and the writer represents you on this panel.

To admit of the necessary expansion of the work at Teddington, a new building has been erected, and is to be formally opened by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald on Tuesday, 19 May, and on the next day architects are invited by Dr. Jordan, the Director, to inspect the work going on and to take part in a discussion to be held in the afternoon on paint problems of interest to them and decorators, also to be represented. This meeting should present a unique opportunity for ventilating the many problems connected with paints, and of making suggestions for research at the centre of these new activities. There is much to be learnt, and much experience which architects can cite which should help to guide new researches into the most fruitful channels. The laboratories are extensive, and a tour will reveal much of practical interest.

ALAN E. MUNBY [F.]

## FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH RECORDS

Three additions to the Forest Products Research Records\* have been received. Nos. 6 and 7 describe two interesting new hardwoods which are just appearing on the English market. *Khaya anthothea* is a mahogany from the Gold Coast, Ivory Coast and French Cameroons. Generally, it resembles other mahoganies, and is suitable for the same uses, but is slightly harder than Central American mahogany, and appreciably harder than the better known African mahogany, *Khaya ivorensis*. When cut on the quarter it shows a "ribbon grain" that makes it attractive for panelling and interior decorative work.

*Mansonia* comes from the French Ivory Coast, the Gold Coast, Dahomey and Nigeria. In appearance and strength it is somewhat akin to black walnut, and can be used for similar purposes. It is, however, easier to work and has less dulling effect on tools. It should prove a useful addition to the Empire woods suitable for cabinet-making.

The descriptions of the properties of these two timbers is very thorough and the result of elaborate research. This is indicated by the sub-headings, which are: introduction, nomenclature, distribution, description of the tree, description of the timber, seasoning properties, mechanical properties, durability, working qualities, uses, supplies.

Record No. 8 is a continuation of No. 2, and describes some tests on the bending strengths of Douglas fir structural timbers.

\* Forest Products Research Records. No. 6—The Properties of an African Mahogany (*Khaya anthothea* C.D.C.). No. 7—The Properties of Mansonia (*Mansonia altissima* A. Chev.). No. 8—Strength Tests of Structural Timbers. Part 2. H. M. Stationery Office. 6d. each.

## Correspondence

### ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

7 Gower Street, W.C.1.

4.5.36.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR.—I am directed by the Junior Members' Committee to call attention to some errors of fact in Mr. Skinner's letter published in the JOURNAL of 4 April 1936.

A number of members appear to be confusing the Junior Members' Committee and the Informal General Meetings. Mr. Skinner says the Committee was "inaugurated to discuss the problems facing the junior members of the profession." This is not the case. The terms of reference of the Committee are printed in its first annual report in the JOURNAL for 25 April 1936. When, in the same paragraph, he refers to the "chairman at the last of its meetings," he refers to the last Informal General Meeting, and not to a Junior Members' Committee meeting.

Later in his letter, under (3), Mr. Skinner suggests that "All resolutions and recommendations from this Committee should go direct to the R.I.B.A. Council, and should receive careful consideration." All resolutions and recommendations of the Junior Members' Committee *do* go direct to the Council and *do* receive careful consideration. All meetings, resolutions, findings, etc., of this Committee are given exactly the same publicity as those of any other Committee of the R.I.B.A.

To make the position clear, may we say that the Informal General Meetings are *not* meetings of the Junior Members' Committee, but are *general* meetings for all members of the Institute, old and young. These informal meetings were first suggested and organised for a year by the Science Standing Committee. This year the Council gave their organisation to the Junior Members' Committee. In the future their organisation may presumably be given to any other Committee of the R.I.B.A.

Mr. Skinner accuses the Junior Members' Committee of being a stifling ground for the ideas of the younger members of the profession. On the contrary, every point which has been referred to the Junior Members' Committee, as a result of discussion at the Informal General Meetings or direct to the Committee by groups or individuals, has been properly considered, reported to the Council, and the necessary action taken.

The Informal General Meetings were approved by the Council to meet the major point which Mr. Skinner raises, *i.e.*, that the formality of the R.I.B.A. General Meetings tends to preclude informal discussion after the paper is read.

We agree that no real discussion followed Mr. Ansell's paper on "Education," and as there has been a demand from younger members, the Junior Members' Committee has arranged the next Informal General Meeting on 13 May,\* to take the form of an informal discussion on that paper.

Yours faithfully,  
R. FURNEAUX JORDAN,  
Secretary, Junior Members' Committee.

\* Now postponed to 19 May.

University of Cambridge School of Architecture.

1 and 2 Scoope Terrace,

Cambridge.

4.5.36.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR.—Whether or not I am able to be present (or to be heard) at the Informal General Meeting on 13 May (which is a happy idea), there are points brought up by your three correspondents in the JOURNAL of 4 April which can be dealt with best in a letter. I will be as brief as possible.

(1) *Mr. Percy Waldram's letter.*—I find some obscurity in what is said about architectural history and "taste," but I feel that if Mr. Waldram had to teach architectural history, he might have written differently. Surely no sincere effort of modern times has been "arid"? We are asked to consider a sweeping statement: "Think of the Gothic Revival—and Liverpool Cathedral." This setting-up on a pedestal of a single modern building which could not have been produced without the producer's forbears is a misreading not only of architectural history, but of life. Many of the exponents of the Gothic Revival had exceptional capability. The later phases produced work of outstanding excellence, including that of the Liverpool Cathedral architect's father.

(2) *Mr. Skinner's letter.*—There is a damaging criticism of architectural schools, as well as an implied contradiction, in the fourth paragraph. A blind worship of engineers by students is said to be common, and is apparently deplored. If the engineer, as a member of the staff, were let loose in a school of architecture, we must suppose that the worship would increase. Does Mr. Skinner imagine that any good architectural school conducts its courses without a sound and progressive training in building science, which is interwoven with the whole of the practical side of the school's work? This does not demand the continuous presence of an engineer. The schools train architects, not engineers.

(3) *Mr. Patrick Wilson's letter.*—I confess to great sympathy with the main tenor of this. It seems to me that the urge of some students, of which I have had personal experience, towards economic questions (or, as I should prefer to call them, in the language of a wise man at Cambridge—"civics") is something that should not be ignored. I understand the "Planning" movement which was started recently from the Architectural Association as part of the same tendency. Are architects to be indifferent to the profound wisdom of the Amulree Report, which lays stress on the vital importance of a central planning authority, though admitting that more than one-third of England is already regionally planned? There are underlying activities—political, municipal, industrial—that are changing the whole face of England with appalling rapidity. Architects should see to it that they are allowed to take an active part in the transformation. I fully understand that little time—perhaps no time compulsorily—can be given to national planning questions in a three years', or even a five years' architectural course, but I think that preparation should be made for the questioning of students on these matters.

Yours faithfully,  
THEODORE FYFE [F.]

9 May 1936

6 Clatterfield Gardens,  
Westcliff-on-Sea.  
29.4.36.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR,—I have read Mr. Ansell's paper on Architectural Education with much interest, and have awaited his reply to the correspondence before venturing to submit the following comments to you. Your readers will, no doubt, recollect that since Dr. Gropius's exposition of the Bauhaus plan, and the attention drawn to it subsequently in a paper read before the Royal Society of Arts by Dr. Nikolaus Pevsner, there has been a good deal of correspondence in a section of the professional press, culminating in a definite statement from a certain group of students. Mr. Ansell himself wrote a short letter drawing attention to the meeting of 23 March, and suggested that this occasion would be the best for a thorough airing of views on the subject. I wrote myself to Mr. Ansell, and lamented that he had not entered more fully into the discussion, and warned him that a General Meeting of the R.I.B.A. would be the last place where students would speak, or where he could expect a frank discussion of many important points.

Owing to illness, I was not able to attend this meeting, but judging from the reports and correspondence, my warning proved true, and a unique opportunity was lost. One cannot do anything but endorse Mr. Skinner's complaint on this score.

I must confess that I was somewhat staggered at Mr. Fletcher's depreciation of the study of social subjects in the Architectural Schools. Surely, the essence of success in the solution of any architectural problem depends to a very great, if not overwhelming, extent upon the manner in which the social aspects have been taken into consideration. Architecture in itself is so much a reflex of human social conditions and requirements that it is inconceivable to visualise any successful building expression unless these factors have been fully taken into account. To ignore them, simply aggravates the erroneous charges of impracticability of many of the set problems and solutions worked in the schools, and to which aspect Mr. Sheffield is so quick to draw attention. I feel that Mr. Sheffield has formed a precipitate judgment based on a very limited knowledge of the schools and their work, for unless he has visited every school and examined every aspect of its work and plan of study, neither he nor any other critic of similar calibre can be expected to be taken too seriously. In fairness to Mr. Fletcher, however, I think it must be assumed that when making the statement he had in mind the congested extent of the ground which the schools have to cover within the limits of their five years' course, and which precludes any additional subject of study. I am surprised, however, to read that Mr. Ansell agrees with Mr. Fletcher.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Ansell's suggestion for a debate to be held at the R.I.B.A. will bear fruit. It will, however, be found that one debate will not be sufficient, and there is sufficient discussion material to merit a series of conferences. One debate alone would, I feel, dispel the feeling of complacency exemplified by the March meeting, and the belief that all is well with the present system. The students have plenty to say, and the heads of schools would certainly not be dumb.

It is impossible in the course of a letter to touch on more than one or two points, but those who remain in any doubt as to the importance of Mr. Ansell's plea will, no doubt,

realise that for one thing, in recent years the functions and responsibilities of a practising architect and the knowledge expected of him have reached a point such as to make their full and honest fulfilment a mental and physical impossibility, and to place him more and more in the category of a superman. This position, as compared with the training and equipment of a practitioner of, say, twenty years ago, presents a vastly different complexion. Therefore, the character and methods of training are matters for constant review to the extent of one General Meeting per year being allocated to the subject if the present system is to be kept abreast of reality. In the question of duration of training alone, we are content with five years to the six years in the Bauhaus before procedure to the Technische Hochschule of Germany.

The position of the architect to-day is such that he is forced more and more to specialise, and to place a great deal of his work out, whilst his responsibility to his client in no way diminishes. Not all students can expect to be supermen, and the present system is not framed whereby any of them can break away with even a specialist membership qualification. Design alone has long ceased to be the sole function of the architect, and in the field of design many are called, but few are chosen. In view of this, and the widening function of the architect, should it not become necessary for qualification for membership of the R.I.B.A. to be widened on similar lines to the Surveyors' Institute or the Royal College of Music, where the candidate has the opportunity of proving his proficiency in more than one aspect of architecture? For example, there is no qualification for teaching.

In the chain of schools in the country recognised by the R.I.B.A., is there not serious leakage and lack of continuity of training? For example, a student who enters a school recognised for Intermediate exemption only, cannot, unless he is well-to-do or fortunate enough to gain a scholarship, proceed to a Final School. There is no compunction or compulsion on any Final School to absorb these students, with the result that many lose the valuable benefit of continuous study, and drift off into offices, and lose the incentive to qualify.

Then again, is not the following a point worthy to debate. The lamentable wastage of energy, possessing as they do, excellent facilities and equipment that such potential schools as Liverpool, the A.A., and the Bartlett School should be spending their time for three years at least in breaking in the raw students in the preliminary stages, when they could be concentrating to better purpose on either the higher stages of training, *the study of social problems as affecting the architect, economics, or even experimentalism and research to equip the advanced students to keep more abreast with contemporary conditions*. This, when such preliminary work could be as well undertaken by the smaller schools in co-operation. I do not wish to infer that these higher stages are in any way neglected, but with such relegation of the preliminary stages, they could concentrate to better advantage. The answer which has been given to this is that these schools prefer to keep their preliminary students themselves, so that they can at least be sure of continuity of method within their own walls. This practice, to my mind, is very much like expecting the Universities to prepare its students for its own matriculation, General Schools, or Entrance Examination, leaving all other schools purposeless. It denotes a looseness in the system. Are not these points, some of many, worthy of debate?

Yours faithfully,  
D. N. MARTIN-KAYE [F.]  
Head of Department of Architecture, Southend.

25 Mecklenburgh Square,  
London, W.C.1.  
4.5.36.

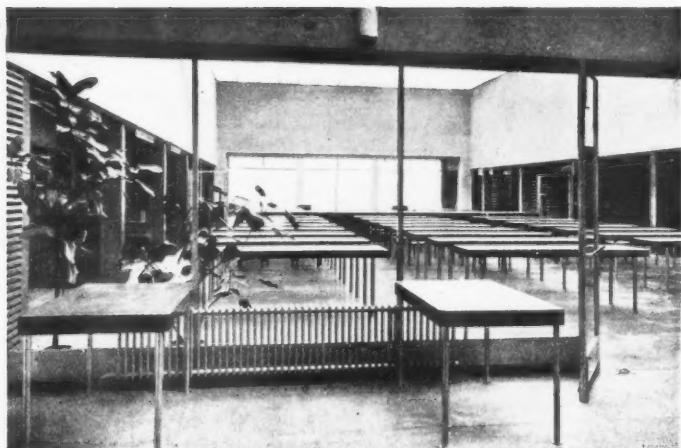
To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR.—As one who has been an articled pupil, and is now engaged in studying for the Final Examination whilst employed in an office, I should like to draw attention to the amount of apparently unnecessary work required by the Institute in the form of testimonies. If my information is correct, a registered architect, not a member of the Institute, when applying for the Licentiateship, is allowed to produce as evidence of his knowledge both of design and of construction, drawings done by him in the office in which he is employed. One would like to know the reasons why a student taking an examination for the Associateship is not allowed to do the same. It is impossible to hold that a working drawing made in an office (possibly under the supervision of a chief draughtsman) is a less reliable guide to the applicant's capacities than one made in

a School of Architecture under the supervision of a year-master. If it is considered impossible to admit office work as design testimonies one would suggest that fewer design testimonies be required: on the grounds that an examiner who cannot judge a student's ability from one testimony and an esquisse done as part of the examination can judge no better from three testimonies and an esquisse.

One result of the quantities of drawings now required is that one never attends the lectures, exhibitions, etc., sponsored by the Institute and mentioned in the pages of your JOURNAL, because one has not the time. Consequently amongst students employed in offices there is a growing lack of interest in the affairs of the Institute and in all that the Institute stands for. One does not know whether the Council of the Institute considers this a desirable state of affairs, but some attention should surely be drawn to this current of feeling.

Yours faithfully,  
G. H. THORPE.



Swiss National Library, Berne. Reading Room

## Book Reviews

### THE BACKGROUND OF MODERN PLANNING\*

In reviewing this book for the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL the important aspect would appear to be its value to those architects who are concerned with planning in this country, although the book was written primarily for American readers.

The author, after dealing with ancient city planning and planning in the Middle Ages and Renaissance period, advises the student to concern himself with a "broad perspective" of the efforts made rather than "knowledge of them in detail" and in discussing ancient cities Dr. Adams says that "real nobility has its nursery in the home, and the quality of that is dependent on its immediate environment, as well as on its being related to a centre of community life and culture." I should say that this is the keynote of the book.

"Whatever," says Dr. Adams, "may be the cause of the rise of empires, their endurance finally depends on the degree of wellbeing of the common people and on the maintenance of human values."

Truly a great and sincere invitation to planners to get away from the rut of parochialism and to view broadly and to face manfully all our problems and difficulties, especially if we desire to stimulate the interest of the working population in community affairs.

The book in Part II deals very fully with the influences that have led up to what may be termed the modern activity in planning. Developments in the United States of America are traced step by step, and the new forces in urban growth in all civilised countries are described and the fact shown that they have accelerated the growth of cities, and whatever benefits may have accrued new forms of inconvenience have followed and the evils of haphazard growth have been intensified—a conclusion all too obvious in this country.

Speaking of skyscrapers we are told that the "devil of the piece" is not the height but the excessive bulk of such buildings in relation to adjacent areas of open land. This was caused by utilising a system of streets and other open areas that was laid out for the service of low buildings without adapting it to the new needs.

The book contains two chapters on "Recent developments of City Planning in the United States" and "Aims and Objects of Modern City Planning in America," between which is a valuable and instructive chapter on "Town Planning Outside the United States." Space does not permit a full review of these

chapters. It is of interest that the fear is expressed that in modern city planning "the technique of planning will become subservient to legal and administrative control," adding that "merely to make a map for the purpose of graphically illustrating the requirements of a set of standardised rules is not to make a city plan." Let us beware then, for we are also told that the laws of England are more advanced than elsewhere, so we should fight for the freedom of the designers of the plan.

Running through the book is the conviction that architects and landscape architects should be interested in the preparation of schemes, and it is strongly urged that only those who are properly trained should undertake this specialised work. Each plan is a separate problem, and no plan can be complete that does not embody provision for every activity of human life in urban and rural areas.

The case made out for national and regional planning is forceful and contains much information of value to planning in this country, and the setting up of regions by the State might be usefully advocated in this country, particularly in regard to air transport. The haphazard way in which sites for aerodromes are chosen will only lead to confusion, whereas if the Air Ministry defined suitable regions and then held conference with planning authorities, landowners, local authorities and others interested it should be possible to discover from the evidence given where the best locations would be.

Both here and in the United States and elsewhere the germ of "planning" seems to have been in legislation made for health and sanitation, and it is to be hoped that we shall use the powers that Parliament has given us to remove the criticism made by Dr. Adams that the practical application of the power to control the appearance of buildings "is widely opposed in practice as interference in a matter of taste and only justifiable under special conditions," and he refers to the destruction of Waterloo Bridge, one of the most distinguished architectural monuments in London, as being dictated by political expediency rather than necessity.

There seems to be much work for members of the R.I.B.A. to do, and as indicated in the book it should be possible to state certain fundamentals that must be adhered to without dictating on matters of taste. Surely we could bring to the surface points upon which there is agreement. This is another invitation to the profession to lead the way before more damage has been done.

\* *Outline of Town and City Planning*, by Thomas Adams. 4to. 368 pp. London: Churchill, 1936. 18s.

The last chapter deals with the future of city planning. Admitting that we have a higher ideal of social welfare than has ever existed before, Dr. Adams emphasises that planning must guide future development, and to do this it must be practised as an art and approached scientifically. "Public understanding" of the relationship between art and economy must be promoted.

"The balance of planning," says Dr. Adams, "now weighs too much in the direction of providing services to the

buildings, particularly facilities for communication, and too little in the direction of buildings themselves, particularly in the design and arrangement of buildings . . . unless the engineer, the architect and the landscape architect co-operate in the making of comprehensive plans a certain degree of one-sidedness is inevitable."

The book concludes with a useful summary of aspects of city planning problems.

G. LANGLEY TAYLOR [F.], M.T.P.I.

### A HANDBOOK TO NORFOLK CHURCHES

PARISH CHURCHES OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH, by Claude J. Messent. 8vo. 298 pp. Norwich. H. W. Hunt. 1936. 7s. 6d.

The churches of Norfolk are a noble heritage of Mediaeval craftsmanship. In particular the 15th century building of this district achieved a far higher standard of design than the average elsewhere in the country, and Norfolk is particularly rich in the possession of fine woodwork and fittings of this date. Any book, therefore, that encourages the appreciation and preservation of these churches is to be commended, as already more than one quarter of them are in ruins or have been demolished.

The chief aim of this book has been to provide a complete list and some description of all the parish churches of Norfolk, both new and old, including those that are ruined or have disappeared. In this arduous task the author has been remarkably successful. A minor omission is the former church of St. Helen, Norwich, deserted in 1249. Since then the parish church has been the Hospital Church of St. Giles, although the parish is still St. Helen's.

The outlook of the author is on the whole popular, and he has written a convenient book of reference for the ordinary public. For the novice a table of styles with dates is given at the beginning. The language is straightforward and easy to follow. In a book of this kind, closely reasoned archaeological research would be out of place, but the expert may find the short descriptions a useful guide.

Practically the whole book is occupied by descriptions of the individual churches. These are arranged alphabetically, with clear headings, giving the name of the place and dedication of the church. This is an improvement on former books, arranged either by Hundreds or Deaneries, thus necessitating constant reference to the index for the ordinary reader. Nowadays it is more convenient to select local groups from a map; in fact, a map would have been a useful addition to this book.

Each description begins with a clear account of the extent of the existing buildings. This is followed by a short paragraph giving the style of architecture of the different parts, and comments on the chief points of interest. Definite dates are often stated where these are known. The more important monuments, interesting woodwork and fittings, a rare chalice or unusual chest are mentioned. Where old glass exists the fact is noted. The number of bells and the date of the registers is also given. On the whole, the author has properly confined himself to statements of fact, but the greater achievements of the Norfolk craftsmen call forth a modest adjective of admiration. There are a dozen characteristic sketches

by the author, though the subjects chosen might perhaps have been more representative.

The main defect of the book is the difficulty of picking out the more interesting objects and important churches. The latter are given scarcely adequate description. It would have been helpful to learn rather more about the big churches of Cawston and Yarmouth. At Binham one would have liked to know the date of the foundation, and the name of the Order to which the monastery belonged.

To save space an occasional unimportant remark might have been omitted. The absence of a nave or chancel is more remarkable than its existence, which is monotonously recorded. Why mention the modern fittings at Swafield when these are nearly universal, or the sedilia, piscinas, stoup and rood stairs at Aldborough when these are neglected elsewhere. It has not, of course, been possible to record everything of note, but certain important items should certainly have found a place. There is no mention of the rare stone seat and desk in the low side window at Melton Constable. Interesting Saxon work at Thurnage, and the destroyed Saxon predecessor of the modern church at Framingham Pigot, deserved notice. A few more dates might have been included. The inscription on the north-west buttress at Blakeney, with the date 1434, has been missed. The date of St. Peter, Hungate, is noted, but the inscription which gives it is not.

As with its predecessors, some errors of statement have been made. The north door and not the south is Norman at Quindenham. Yarmouth has only one south aisle and not two. The tower at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe is not Saxon, but Norman, though built on to a Saxon gable wall, which possesses a double splashed round window. The author's dating is occasionally open to question.

At the end of the book is a good list of round towers. Three have, however, been omitted—Wolterton and Burgh St. Mary, described as square, and Ringstead St. Peter. These are ruined towers, but their walls are still standing to nearly the original heights.

In a work that includes so much it would be surprising if there were no points to criticise. The author is to be congratulated that they are relatively so few. The book as a whole appears reasonably reliable, and one has no hesitation in saying that for those interested in the parish churches of Norfolk, Mr. Messent has provided the most convenient and complete small book now obtainable.

A. B. WHITTINGHAM [I.]

### A PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CIVIC AMENITIES AMENITIES. Their place in our daily lives, by Sir William Edward Whyte. 8vo, pamph. 25 pp. Hodge, Glasgow. 1936. 6d.

The Glasgow Civic Society have sent the library a copy of this paper by Sir W. E. Whyte, in which he deals with the factors of Amenity, the "pleasing things in life." His chief concern is with housing and town planning. The paper concludes with various suggestions for local authorities to consider and with a plea for the establishment of voluntary civic societies.

9 May 1936

## COLOUR DESIGN

COLOUR DESIGNS FOR MODERN INTERIORS. 80 designs in colour. 4to. vii + 80 pp. Julius Hoffmann, Stuttgart, re-issued Arch. Press, London, 1935. £2 2s.

*Colour Designs for Modern Interiors* is a well-produced volume and the coloured illustrations generally are exceedingly well done.

The book is interesting both in design and colour, and improves with study; even at a first glance fifteen to twenty really fine schemes of colour and satisfactory arrangements of rooms are apparent, largely on account of their simplicity and sense of scale.

The preface states that in the new architecture "we must avoid anything glaring or gaudy, and that only the smaller objects should be intensively coloured, that the walls should be in light pale shades with only a slight pattern of a kind that will gain, not lose, by the reflection of the sunny world outside." So we may make the rooms restful for the town worker and bring people nearer to Nature; further it is stated that this is not a fashion that will soon change, only the exaggerations will disappear.

Are people so consistent in their tastes and their love of Nature and, if so, is this the only means of expression?

Has any fine colour period relied upon *glaring or gaudy* colour for its success? The Exhibitions of Persian and Chinese Art at Burlington House have shown how restrained and subtle the rich colour of the East could be. Our comparisons should not always be with the Edwardians!

Many of the schemes in the book are marred by fussy detail and lack of restraint. Schemes which rely upon modern simplicity are not improved by too many plants, pictures and a multifarious collection of coloured cushions.

Although the effect would not be so bad in fact as in the drawing, many details could be omitted or subdued.

It would be an advantage if figures were sometimes introduced to give scale to the rooms, as in some instances there seems to be a difference in the vertical and horizontal scales. An example is shown with flooring of square panels: assuming these to be 24-in. squares—as the desk chair occupies about three-quarters of a square—then the room is 30 ft. wide by about 10 ft. high. There is, in some views, an unreasonable reduction in the size of the furniture which is misleading and serves no useful purpose.

Frequently the object of a colour drawing is to enable the artist to explain his ideas to his client, and if this distortion is used the client is given an entirely wrong impression and may be disappointed with the ultimate result.

Apart from this, and taking the book as a whole, it is extremely useful.

The best of the schemes have exceptional charm and should prove inspiring to the student of colour and to the decorator.

R. E.

## " RENDERING "

COLOUR IN SKETCHING AND RENDERING, by Arthur L. Guptill. 4to. xiii + 348 inc. 195 plates. New York: Reinhold 1935. 10.

This volume recalls those very helpful articles which appeared some years ago in our good American friend *Pencil*

Points, provided by the men who were then forming the courses of study in rendering and draughtsmanship.

The experimental work practised "under class-room conditions" was considerable, and one new method superseded the last at very frequent intervals: the advent of Chinese orange and peach black, for instance, roused much applause in the schools, and in some expert hands they were the means of creating many beautiful renderings.

Not the least important among these experts was A. L. Guptill, and the solid foundations of these researches, which so many of these pages recapture, have proved their worth in the work of many of our leading colour draughtsmen. The methods in vogue at the Beaux Arts and the American schools, to say nothing of our own fairylike productions, must surely be recognised as the basis of modern architectural rendering.

One very noticeable change in method has been the rapid development of colour technique and the introduction of the many new colour mediums and materials with the accompanying theories have made the job of instruction a formidable one.

A considerable amount of information is condensed into the chapter which deals with the study of colour and its associated troubles; while a little wearisome, perhaps, they are nevertheless important, and should repay attention. It is doubtful whether the "minglings" can be regarded as of more than accidental service, and our own book by John Holmes has considerable interest as a comparable volume.

The examples of renderings which are illustrated appear somewhat meretricious when compared with the mature and lovely work of men like Jules Guerin, Eggers and van Buren Magonigle, or, to come nearer home, to our own contemporaries, Robert Atkinson, Farey, Walcot or Bucknell. The work of these men will always command attention from even the most erudite student, and with them the job of the "explanation of the surface" was always a primary one, much more important than the mere addition of secondary detail, no matter how tempting the opportunity.

The "direct handling" advocated in this book appears to lead to a miscellaneous mixture of colour, and one doubts the value of the fancy stunts of the sand, crayon and air blasts in the production of suitable accessories.

This book on colour is, however, a remarkable compendium of methods, habits and possibilities for architectural work, and a welcome addition to the draughtsman's library; it should well repay the careful attention of all students who are anxious to achieve that proficiency which is essential to really competent architectural expression.

WALTER M. KEESEY [A.]

## TIMBER HOUSES

THE CHARM OF THE TIMBER HOUSE, with an Introduction by S. P. B. Mais and a chapter on building in timber by R. Furneaux Jordan. 30 pp. and 10 plates. Ivor Nicholson and Watson, London. 1936. 2s. 6d.

This pleasant and instructive little book is, apart from Mr. Mais's Introduction and the plates, substantially a reprint of Mr. Jordan's article in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL of 4 January this year. It has the advantage of being printed on better paper, so that the photographs are clearer, and of having the supplementary plates to illustrate some old and new timber houses in England and the U.S.A.

## INFORMATION

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION,  
VOL. 2. Edited by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne.  
Sm. fol. xi pp. + 118 sheets. Arch. Press. London, 1936.  
£1 1s. od.

This is the third member of its family. First came the original Information book of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, which was the magnificent result of the lean years when that enterprising office spent the time they were not able to spend in building improving their qualifications to build better in the future. Next came the first volume of the Architects' Journal Information sheets, which included a residue of the sheets issued from Burnet, Tait & Lorne's office, but consisted for the most part of trade information supplied by reliable manufacturers and suppliers of goods presented in the manner of the earlier sheets. This third volume retains only the imprint of the architects' office, otherwise all the sheets are based on information about their goods supplied by the manufacturers, or trade information and research bureaux, or in one or two cases by independent experts. Although most of the information has naturally particular reference to the commodity of the concern responsible for the sheet, much of it is none the less of general reference; for instance, sheets 203 on lifts, 211, 219 and 227, etc., painting costs, 213 brickwork wall heights and thicknesses, and many others, but it should, of course, be realised that information given in this way, however useful it may be, tells generally less than half the story; but information the modern architect must have, and no one has reason to cavil if the Architects' Journal is able to give him (at the cost of a guinea) so much useful data. If he misuses it and takes the particular for the general it is invariably his own fault. In the review of the corresponding volume last year regret was expressed that the sheets should be so inconveniently related, so that, for instance, the twenty-one sheets relating to paint work are scattered from sheet 186 to 291, with at the most three together. The existing arrangement is clearly enough dictated by the fact that the same serial numbering has to be used as was used in periodical publication, and periodical publication makes it necessary for the changes to be rung over a wide variety of subjects to keep the reader's appetite whetted. It would, however, be perfectly possible to do as is done by some of the American publishers issuing similar sheets; to have a series of subject letters—"A" for painting, "B" for plumbing, etc., etc., and to number the various sheets in each subject serially. They could be issued periodically in any order, but when published as a book could be reshuffled into their subject order without destroying the logic of the original numbering. We present this idea to the "A.J." and hope they will do something to carry it into effect.

## ARCHÆOLOGY IN GREECE

THE ANNUAL OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS. Vol. XXXIII. Session 1932-1933. Published for the B.S.A. by Macmillan.

ARCHÆOLOGY IN GREECE, 1934-1935, by Hunfray Payne, Director of the British School at Athens. Reprint from the Journal of Hellenic Studies. Vol. LV. 1935.

The papers of most direct architectural reference in the latest annual of the British School at Athens are by Mr. Hubert Megaw, who reports on Byzantine architecture in

Mani and on the date of the church of H. Theodoroi at Athens.

Mr. Megaw, Walston student from Cambridge University, is one of the few scholars in recent years to concentrate on Byzantine architecture. His researches have covered much new ground, and have contributed notably to a revival of interest in this department of archaeological research, which, as far as English scholarship is concerned, had found few followers since the days of the prosperity of the Byzantine Research Publications Fund. The churches of Mani were surveyed a number of years ago by Professor Ramsay Traquair, whose information about them Mr. Megaw has been able to supplement. He gives a chronological and typological table, and illustrates his article by a number of excellent photographs taken by Mr. A. L. McMullen.

Mr. Hunfray Payne's paper is a general survey of the work being done in Greece by excavators of all countries. He briefly describes the American excavators' work in the Athenian Agora, where the South Stoa has been uncovered and shown to be a building 150 metres long by 18.30 metres wide, of the Hellenistic period. The neighbouring theatre, of approximately the first century A.D., is a rectangular building which can be identified with the Odeion mentioned by Pausanias.

Excavations at Corinth, Sicyon, Alepheira, Mycenae, Sparta and Malthi are briefly described, and a good plan is given of Malthi, the first Mycenaean settlement to be uncovered in its entirety: it consists of some 305 rooms grouped in houses with a third of the walled area open as a market. Another Mycenaean settlement was discovered at Delphi.

A considerable part of Mr. Payne's report is given to the work at Knossos, and three illustrations of the fine mosaic pavement from the Roman villa are included.

To the general student Mr. Payne's survey is of inestimable value as linking up the studies of all the scholars of all countries who are now at work in Greece.

## NORWEGIAN BUILDING COMMODITIES

NORSKE ARKITEKTERS LANDSFORHUND BYGGEHANDBOK, 1935-1936. Edited by K. M. Sinding-Larsen, Gen. Sec., N.A.L. 4to., xxiii + 264 pp. Oslo, 1936.

This is a general reference book to the specification and markets of building commodities obtainable in Norway issued by the leading Norwegian architectural society and edited by M. Sinding-Larsen, the secretary of N.A.L. The various commodities, natural and synthetic materials, plumbing equipment, metals, insulating materials, timbers, and all types of fittings and equipment, are illustrated by clearly arranged pages of manufacturers' photographs and factual data. The quality of the information given is invariably high and free from extraneous "puff" matter. The layout and type of information given might serve as a model for trades information sheets in journal advertising pages. At the end is a list of standard technical symbols for draughtsmen, and a list of members of N.A.L. and their addresses is also published.

## THE COMPENDIUM'S JUBILEE

THE ARCHITECTS' COMPENDIUM AND ANNUAL CATALOGUE. 50th year of issue. Edited by J. E. Sears [F.] and J. E. Sears, Jr. 4to., xvi + 812 pp. London 1936. 2 gns.

In honour of the 50th issue of the *Compendium* the President of the R.I.B.A. has written a foreword, and the business side of the *Compendium* is prefaced by a brief history of the development of architecture and building construction during the past fifty years. The body of the *Compendium* is in the usual form which we know so well: classified trade announcements; building work and materials prices; wage rates; technical information; building regulations and legal notes, and an address list of architects and contractors.

9 May

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## Review of Periodicals

Attempt is made in this review to refer to the more important articles in all the journals received by the Library. None of the journals mentioned are in the Loan Library, but the Librarian will be pleased to give information about prices and where each journal can be obtained. Members can have photostat copies of particular articles made at their own cost on application to the Librarian.

### SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

ARCHITETTURA. Vol. XV. No. 3. March. P. 97.  
Faculty of Engineering building Bologna University by G. Vaccaro. A large scheme including laboratories, class and lecture rooms, etc.

CASA BELLA (MILAN). Vol. IX. No. 99. March. P. 2.  
The Institute of Physics, Rome University City, by G. Pagano. Complete administrative and tutorial departments; includes lecture theatre, library, laboratories, etc.

BUILDER. Vol. CL. No. 4862. 10 April. P. 731.  
Evelyns School, Yiewsley, Middlesex, for Middlesex County Council by W. T. Curtis [F.] and H. W. Burchett [A.].

ARKITEKTN (HELSINGFORS). 1936. No. 2. P. 17.  
Two elementary schools by Gunnar Taucher, at Bergäll and Vallgard, in Northern Quarter, Helsingfors. Include gymnasium, considerable provision for technical education, needlework, woodwork, cookery, etc.; also school doctor's department and, in the Vallgard school, a dental dispensary.

BUILDER. Vol. CL. No. 4864. 24 April. P. 824A.  
Weston-super-Mare County School, Somerset, by A. J. Toomer [L.].

### LIBRARIES

ARCH. RECORD (N.Y.). Vol. LXXXIX. No. 3. March. P. 194.  
"Hall of Records," Annapolis, Maryland, by L. H. Fowler. A state archives building: reading rooms and stack.

### CIVIC

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. Vol. CXLVI. No. 3512. 10 April. P. 38.  
Somerset County Offices, Taunton, by F. Vincent Harris [F.].

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI. Vol. VII. No. 3. March. P. 27.  
Governor's Palace, Algeria, by Guiauchain. Includes offices, residence, theatre. Also Agricultural department building, Algiers, and designs for the *Foyer Civique*, Algiers. Also Governor's Palace, Guadeloupe.

### FIRE STATION

ARKITEKTN (HELSINGFORS). 1936. No. 2. P. 27.  
Bergäll Fire Station, by Gunnar Taucher, in Northern quarter, Helsingfors.

### RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS BUILDINGS

ARCH. RECORD (N.Y.). Vol. LXXXIX. No. 3. March. P. 185.  
Unity House, Forest Park, Pennsylvania, by Lescaze. The summer camp of a women's trade union to house 1,000; a large restaurant, dormitories, recreation rooms, etc.; brick, steel, weatherboarding and concrete structure.

Also week-end resort at Ingerstrand, Oslo, Norway, by Moestue and Schistad. Open-air and indoor restaurant.

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. Vol. LXXXIII. No. 2153. 23 April. P. 624.  
Bathing beach at Wädenswil on Lake of Zurich by Hans Streuli.

Also in 30 April:  
Sports pavilion at Osterley for London Transport by S. A.

Heaps. A good example of the high quality of work maintained in all its buildings by the L.P.T.B. Includes dressing-rooms and large refreshment room.

### OFFICES

BYGGE KUNST (OSLO). Vol. XVIII. No. 2. P. 21.  
"Evening Post" newspaper office and printing works, Oslo.

### SHOPS

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. Vol. CXLVI. No. 3511. 3 April. P. 9.

Messrs. Lewis's store, Leicester, by G. de C. Fraser [F.] and John Sheridan [A.]. Good example of progressive store design.

ARCH. RECORD (N.Y.). Vol. LXXXIX. No. 3. March. P. 211.  
Doubleday Doran Bookshop, Chicago, by M. Lapidus.

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). Vol. LI. No. 26. 29 March. P. 522.  
Galeries Lafayette enlargement, by P. Patout.

BATHS (BRUSSELS). Vol. V. No. 41. April.  
Second of two special numbers on shops illustrating design for large store at Rotterdam by Dudok.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. Vol. VI. No. 6. April. P. 197.  
Recent Austin Reed shops (men's clothes) by P. J. Westwood and Sons [F. & A.].

### RADIO BUILDING

NUESTRA ARQUITECTURA (BUENOS AIRES). 1936. No. 3. March.  
Radio building, Buenos Aires, by A. G. Spandri.

### TRANSPORT BUILDINGS

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. Vol. XIV. No. 4. April. P. 170.  
San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge. One of the most ambitious bridge schemes in the world fully described and excellently illustrated. Length of main structure 22,720 ft., towers height above water 505 ft.

### INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

BUILDING. Vol. XI. No. 4. April. P. 136 et seq.  
Factories. Special number with illustrations of recent building, articles on factory layout by C. W. Glover; industrial plant design by R. A. Cordingley [F.]; lighting by J. W. Howell and illustrated notes on industrial floors. A useful reference.

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE. Vol. LI. No. 28. 12 April. P. 566.  
*Le Mobilier National*. A central depository and factory for furniture in the possession of the State for use in Embassies, Government offices, etc. Also the national tapestry works. The new building designed by A. & G. Perret.

ARCHITECTURE ILLUSTRATED. 1936. April. P. 106.  
Glaxo, Ltd., Laboratories, Greenford, Middlesex, by Wallis, Gilbert & Partners [FF.].

### HOSPITALS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI. Vol. VII. No. 3. March. P. 43.  
Miliana Hospital, Algiers. Large general hospital, special

hot country planning. *Also* Colonial hospital at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. Vol. CXVI. No. 3512. 10 April. P. 48.

Surgical clinic, Tuebigen University, by Hans Daiber, a multi-floored hospital including teaching and research departments. Well described and illustrated.

### CINEMAS AND THEATRES

BOUWKUNDIG WEEKBLAD (AMSTERDAM). 1936. No. 15. 11 April.

BOUWBEDRIJF (THE HAGUE). Vol. XIII. No. 7. 3 April. "City" Theatre, Amsterdam, by Jan Wils and O. Rosendahl.

PROFIL (VIENNA). Vol. IV. No. 3. March. P. 110. Theatre-cinema and concert hall, Eindhoven, Holland (town of the Phillips Radio industry), by C. Witzmann.

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). Vol. LI. No. 26. 29 March. P. 530.

News cinema, *Paris-Soir des Ternes*, by Ch. Siclis. An egg-shaped auditorium seating 510. *Also* other cinemas in Cons. Mod. No. 27.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVIII. No. 2644. April. P. 63.

Fire regulations, etc., in New York theatre code. An interesting article with much of indirect value to English architects.

BAUMEISTER (MUNICH). Vol. XXXIV. May. P. 160.

The rebuilding of the National Theatre, Munich. The modernisation of a large early XIX century theatre.

ARCHITECTURE ILLUSTRATED. 1936. April. P. 126.

New Savoy Cinema, Nottingham, by R. W. G. Cooper [A].

### CONCERT HALL, &c

BOUWKUNDIG WEEKBLAD ARCHITETTURA. 1936. No. 16. 18 April. P. 185.

Göteborg Concert Hall by Nils Einar Eriksson, one of the most original and interesting buildings of its kind.

MODERNE BAUFORMEN. Vol. XXXV. No. 4. April. Helsingfors Festival Hall, by Hytönen and Luukkonen, for exhibitions, sports, concerts, etc.: first building in larger scheme. Seats 7,000.

Gothenburg Concert Hall by Sörvick. Original and interesting plan. Careful acoustic design. Seats 1,300 in stalls and boxes. Small hall in same building for audience of 450.

ARCH. RECORD (N.Y.). Vol. LXXXIX. No. 3. March. P. 228.

Minneapolis armoury building. A large hall for basketball, tennis, dancing, etc. Wood-block floor, wide span steel roof. Garage under.

BAUMEISTER (MUNICH). Vol. XXXIV. No. 4. April. P. 109.

Evangelical-reformed church community hall, Berlin, by Dubach & Bloor. Includes lecture hall for 500.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. Vol. CXLVI. No. 3514. 24 April. P. 95.

Chesil Court, Chelsea, by W. S. Grice and Denis Poulton [F. & A.], with Austin Blomfield [A.]. A scheme with several interesting features and service details.

### DOMESTIC

ARCHITECTURE ILLUSTRATED. 1930. April. P. 118. Stockley Hall Flats, Albany Road, Regent's Park, by Atkinson and Anderson [F.].

ARCHITECTURAL FORUM. Vol. LXIV. No. 4. April. Photos, plans and data of 85 houses costing about \$5,000, mostly 2 or 3 bedroomed houses. A useful reference to modern U.S.A. house building practice.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. Vol. CXLVI. No. 3513. 17 April. P. 69.

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. Vol. LXXXIII. No. 2154. 30 April. P. 659.

Concrete house in Sussex by Connell, Ward and Lucas. Well described, with some technical details. An interesting example of monolithic concrete construction.

PENCIL POINTS. Vol. XVII. No. 4. April.

Results of competition for a fireproof concrete house; many designs of three bedroomed houses. Small construction details.

### HOUSING

ROYAL ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE. Vol. LVI. No. 10. April.

Paper by Sir Raymond Unwin, "How Planned Distribution May Prevent Crowding"; illustrated by many tables and diagrams showing the effect on costs of intensive development.

BYGGE KUNST (OSLO). Vol. XVIII. No. 2. P. 27. Huge Housing scheme, Boligselskap, by Ragnar Nilsen. Details of site and house planning.

### HOTEL

BUILDER. Vol. CL. No. 4864. 24 April. P. 821. Stoneleigh Hotel, Ewell, Kent, by A. E. Sewell [L.]. Large public-house with social hall and garden.

### F FARMS

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVIII. No. 2643. March. P. 26.

Farm and stable group on wealthy private estate. Some good details. General design "olde worlde," but article includes some useful technical details.

### MATERIALS

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVII. No. 2642. March. P. 64.

Oil Paints and Painting Methods. Article by R. W. Sherman. Much clearly given technical data. A useful reference.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVIII. No. 2644. April. P. 77.

Tiles. Technical article, a useful reference.

### EQUIPMENT

JOURNAL OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS' INSTITUTE. Vol. XV. No. 10. April. P. 530.

Engineering services and the "one-pipe" system of drainage from the Quantity Surveyor's point of view: paper by J. S. Jones, with many useful details in it on services costs.

### TOWN PLANNING

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI. Vol. VII. No. 3. March. P. 38.

Algiers. Town planning, including a scheme for the application of Corbusier's ideas and Corbusier's scheme for Nemours.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVIII. No. 2643. March. P. 17.

Le Corbusier on America's urban planning problem.

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI. Vol. VII. No. 3. March.

France overseas. Special number dealing with French building, mostly in hot lands. A valuable reference for this type of work. Articles on planning to provide protection against heat, native building, etc. See other references for buildings illustrated.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT. Vol. CXLVIII. No. 2644. April. P. 19.

## Accessions to the Library

1935-1936-VII

Lists of all books, pamphlets, drawings and photographs presented to, or purchased by, the Library are published periodically. It is suggested that members who wish to be in close touch with the development of the Library should make a point of retaining these lists for reference.

Any notes which appear in the lists are published without prejudice to a further and more detailed criticism.

Books presented by publisher for Review marked

R.

Books purchased marked

P.

\*Books of which one copy at least is in the Loan Library.

### ARCHITECTURE

#### GIBBS (JAMES)

Rules for drawing the several parts of architecture, etc.

3rd ed. 16". Lond. 1753.

Presented by Mr. Philip Bowden [Ret. L.].

#### GROPIUS (WALTER)

Architects in the making. An exhibition by the Liverpool School of Architecture of the University of L— at the Building Centre. . . . Opening address.

dupl. typescript. 13". [Lond.] 1936. R.

#### ARCHITECTS' COMPENDIUM

The —, etc. J. E. Sears, ed. 1936. 50th year.

1936. R.

#### SOCIETIES (GENERAL)

##### COMITÉ PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL DES ARCHITECTES

Fascicule xxvi.

1935. R.

##### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Year-book. 1936.

[1936.] R.

#### PRESERVATION

##### OFFICE OF WORKS: ANCIENT MONUMENTS BOARD

List of monuments . . . (to 31 December 1935).

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1936. 1s. 3d. R.

#### HISTORY

##### PUIG I CADAFALCH (J.)

La Géographie et les origines du premier art roman.

11" x 9". 516 pp. + V folding pls. (maps).

Paris : Laurens. 1935. £2 2s. P.

##### GLASGOW : McLELLAN GALLERIES

Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh Memorial exhibition.

pam. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Glasgow. 1933.

Presented by Mr. John Wilson [F.].

##### GYÖRGYI (DÉNES)

\*Uj Magyar Épitőművészeti [new Hungarian architecture].

1935.

Purchased copy transferred to Loan Library.

#### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

##### BOARD OF ARCHITECTS OF TASMANIA

The Architects Act, 1929.—Regulations.

pam. 8". n.p. [1929 or after.] R.

##### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Departmental Committee on Local Government officers. Circular 1525.)

pam. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1936. 1d. R.

#### BUILDING TYPES

##### (CIVIL)

##### BRITISH STEELWORK ASSOCIATION

\*Garages and service stations.

pam. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. [1936.] R. (3).

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Costing returns. Year ending 31st March, 1935. Part i. [Hospitals, etc.]

pam. 13". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1936. 1s. R.

—, (Circular 1530.)

leaflet. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1936. R.

#### KITAO (H.)

New style in Chashitsu (tea-cult house). (Title-page at end.)

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". var. pp. + pls. Kanda, Tokyo :

Toko-do Shoten. [19—] (16s.) P.

#### ROTHA (PAUL)

Documentary film.

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 272 pp. Lond. : Faber & Faber. 1936. 12s. 6d. P.

#### RELIGIOUS

#### SHORT (E. H.)

A History of religious architecture.

New ed. 10". xix + 304 pp. + front. + pls. Lond. : Philip Allan. 1936. 12s. 6d. P.

#### STUMPFE (A. F. G.)

Die Kirche in Bensen, Schwaden, Waltirsche und Schönpreisen. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der nordböhmischen Gotik unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Bautätigkeit der Geschlechter Salhausen und Bünau. Dissertation . . . der Technischen Hochschule Berlin, etc.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". 111 pp. Berlin. 1935.

Presented by the Librarian of the Patent Office.

#### HARVEY (WILLIAM)

Structural survey of the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". xxviii + 30 pp. + front. + 122 (figs., backed) + xxiii (mostly backed) pls. + 6 'drawings' (folding plans). Oxford & Lond. : O.U.P. 1935. £1 16s. R.

#### HARVEY (WILLIAM)

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. Structural survey. Final report.

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". xxvi + 28 + (2) pp. + front. + 4 (A/D, backed) + (1) + (V, plans) + 122 (figs., backed) pls. + 6 'plates' (folding plans). Oxford & Lond. : O.U.P. 1935. £1 16s. R.

#### ENRAGHT (H. J.)

A Village & church on the Broads. Ranworth.

3rd ed., reprint. pam. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". (1920) 1930. 1s. 6d.

Presented by the Rev. A. F. S. Sheffield.

#### HENDERSON (A. E.)

Melrose Abbey then and now. ("Then and now" series.) 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". var. pp. and pls. Lond. : Simpkin Marshall. 1936. 2s. P.

#### EDUCATIONAL

##### CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST

Annual report: 22nd, 1935.

##### VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Review of the principal acquisitions during . . . 1935.

1936. R.

#### DOMESTIC

##### VIOLET-LE-DUC (E. E.)

Comment on construit une maison (histoire d'une maison). (Bibliothèque des professions, etc.)

14th ed. 74". Paris. [18—.]

Presented by Mr. Arthur L. Hall [A.].

#### JORDAN (R. F.)

The Charm of the timber house. With an introd. by S. P. B. Mais and a chapter on building in timber by R. F.—J.—.

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 30 pp. + pls. (backed). Lond. : Ivor Nicholson & Watson.

1936. 2s. 6d. R.

## NATIONAL HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COUNCIL

Annual report : thirty-sixth, for 1935-36. 1936. R.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION, *Frankfurt*Umsiedlung.—Subsistence homesteads.—Colonisation intérieure.  
11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 114 pp. Frankfurt, and Stuttgart : Hoffmann, [1935 or -36.] (7s. 6d.) P.

## GREENWOOD (W. E.)

\*The Villa Madama Rome. A reconstruction by W. E. G.—.  
12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Lond. : Tiranti. 1928. (6s. 6d., remaindered.) P.  
*Copy for Loan Library.*

## YOUNG and Company

The Hygienic housing of livestock, *cover title*. [Catalogue.]  
[With 2 loose insets.]  
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. [193—.]  
*Presented by the firm.*

## ALLIED ARTS

STUDIO, *publ.*Decorative art . . . The Studio Year Book. C. G. Holme, ed.  
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. 1936. 7s. 6d. R.  
*Earlier annual issues in Loan Library.*

## WETHEY (H. E.)

Gil de Siloe and his school. A study of late Gothic sculpture  
in Burgos. (Harvard-Radcliffe Fine arts series.)  
11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". xiv + 152 pp. + front. + 1 fig. (pl.) + 82 pls. (backed).  
Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard U.P. 1936. £1 1s. 6d. P.

## DOERNER (MAX)

The Materials of the artist and their use in painting with notes  
on the techniques of the old masters. Trans. by Eugen Neuhaus.  
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". xvi + 432 pp. + front. + pls.  
Lond. : Harrap. 1935. 10s. 6d. P.

## BUILDING SCIENCE

BURNET (Sir JOHN), TAIT and LORNE, *editors*The Architects' Journal Library of planned information.  
\*Vol. 2. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Lond. : Architectural Press.  
1936. £1 1s. R. and P.DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH :  
BUILDING RESEARCH STATION LIBRARYBuilding and road research library.—Classified list of the text-  
books, etc.  
Supplement No. 3 [for] 1935. dupl. typescript. 13". [1936.] R.

## MATERIALS

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI, *journal*\*Matériaux de revêtement. (5e année, No. 12, Dec.)  
12". Boulogne. 1935. (9s.) P. for *Loan Library.*

## MOPIN system

"Construire." A film presented by permission of the Building  
Centre illustrating the construction . . . at Drancy . . . in the  
Mopin system of prefabrication. [With leaflet inset.]  
pam. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". [Lond.] [1936.]  
*Presented by Mr. R. H. Williams.*ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, *journal*\*[Special number :] Timber. (Feb.)  
13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. 1936. R. for *Loan Library.*

## CONSTRUCTION

PENCIL POINTS, *journal*[Supplement.] Translucent masonry of Owens-Illinois [Glass  
Company's] Insulux glass building blocks. (Sept.)  
pam. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". n.p. 1935. R.

## SANITARY SCIENCE AND EQUIPMENT

## CHADWICK TRUST

The C—T—. A short account of its founder, its objects, and  
its work.Third revision. pam. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. 1935. R.

## INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Regulations for the electrical equipment of buildings.  
10th ed. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". vi + 176 pp. Lond. : Spon. 1934. 1s. R.

## NASH (E. H. T.)

Lighting in public health. (From Hutt and Hyslop Thomson's  
Manual of public health, 1935.)pam. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". n.p. 1935.  
*Presented by the author.*HADFIELDS (MERTON) *Limited*Painting specifications. A reference book for architects, sur-  
veyors, engineers.  
10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 153 pp. + guide leaves + cards in pocket.  
[Mitcham. 193—.] R.

## PROOFING

ANTI-NOISE LEAGUE  
Leaflet No. 8.

1936. R.

## ENGINEERING (SOCIETIES)

SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS  
Transactions for 1935.

1935. R.

## TOPOGRAPHY

WARD, LOCK & CO., *publ.*A Pictorial and descriptive guide to Torquay, Paignton, Dart-  
mouth, etc.13th ed. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Lond. [1930.]RUTTER (FRANK)  
Guide to Cambridge.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Cambridge : Heffer. 1922. 1s.  
Lacking map. Later ed. in Reference Library.WARD, LOCK & CO., *publ.*A Pictorial and descriptive guide to Great Yarmouth and the  
Broads, etc.6th ed. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Lond. [1919.]ROUEN  
[Views.] (N.D., phot.)ob. sm. fo. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". n.p. n.d.  
—All presented by Mr. R. H. Williams.BATSFORD, *publ.*Batsford's Pictorial guides.—Photographed by Geoffrey Gilbert.  
No. 1. Amsterdam.  
No. 2. Copenhagen.  
No. 3. Stockholm.  
each 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7". Lond. [1936.] 2s. 6d. R.

## BUDRY (CLAUDE and PAUL)

Helios. La croisière en Hellade. 40 photographies de C-B.  
Avant-propos de P-B.—. (Amitiés Gréco-Suisses : Commission  
des Publications.) (Collection des visages de la Grèce series, 3.)12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (iv) + viii + (iv) pp. + 40 pls.

Lausanne : Amitiés. 1935. (12s. 6d.) P.

## SWEDEN YEAR-BOOK

The —— 1936. [Sweden : Ministry of Foreign Affairs.]  
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Stockholm. [1936.]*Presented by the Swedish Consulate-General in London.*

## ORDNANCE SURVEY

A Description of the large scale maps of Great Britain, etc.  
4th ed. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Lond. [1930.] 1s. P.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

## WHYTE (Sir WILLIAM E.)

Amenities : their place in our daily lives.  
pam. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Edin. and Glasgow : Wm. Hodge. 1936.*Presented by the Glasgow Civic Society.*

## Notes

### R.I.B.A. INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 19 MAY 1936

The fifth and last Informal General Meeting of the Session 1935-1936 will be held on Tuesday, 19 May 1936, at 6.15 p.m.

The Meeting will take the form of an open discussion on the recent paper by Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C. [F.], on "Architectural Education," which is reprinted in full in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL of 4 April 1936.

The Chair will be taken by Mr. John Summerson, B.A. (Arch.) London [A.]. Mr. Ansell will be present.

Tea will be provided from 5.30 p.m. onwards.

*It is earnestly hoped that the Principals and Heads of the Schools of Architecture will make every effort to attend in order to take part in the discussion.*

### STUDENTS' EVENING AT THE R.I.B.A. EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTS' WORKING DRAWINGS

A Students' Evening was held in connection with the R.I.B.A. Exhibition of Architects' Working Drawings on Tuesday, 28 April. The Exhibition includes drawings lent by:

Professor L. B. Budden and Mr. J. E. Marshall [F.F.] (Liverpool School of Architecture).

Mr. C. Cowles-Voysey [F.] (Cambridge Municipal Offices).

Mr. Hubert Lidbetter, [F.] (Birmingham Meeting House).

Messrs. Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff [F.] (The Pavilion, Bexhill).

The evening was attended by nearly 150 students. Mr. J. E. Marshall, Mr. Hubert Lidbetter, Mr. Serge Chermayeff and Mr. Robert Ashton and Mr. John Brandon-Jones (representing Mr. C. Cowles-Voysey) were present and explained to the students the special points of interest in their respective drawings.

### THE GARDEN CITIES AND PLANNING ASSOCIATION

#### HAMBURG AND BALTIC TOUR, 2 TO 19 JULY 1936

The next Study Tour of the Association will be to Hamburg and the Baltic Ports of Danzig, Riga, Reval and Helsingfors, on the above-mentioned dates. There is much to be seen in each of these cities from a housing and civic development aspect, and arrangements have been made for representatives of each city to conduct the party round their various schemes.

It is necessary that bookings should be made as early as possible, as the number of the party will be limited. The cost is £39 17s. 6d. The price includes all transport, first class on steamer, second class on land, all meals *en route*, and first class hotel accommodation.

A deposit of £1 must accompany each application for a ticket, which deposit will be credited to the account of the applicant if the tour is taken.

Applications for further particulars and tickets should be made to: Secretary, Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1, or to any branch of Messrs. Dean & Dawson, Ltd., Travel Agents.

### LATEST TIME FOR RECEIVING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

Notices and other matter intended for the JOURNAL can only be included in the coming number if they are received by midday on the Tuesday before the Saturday when the JOURNAL is published. The dates of publication will be found at the foot of the right-hand column on the last page of each JOURNAL.

### R.I.B.A. GOLFING SOCIETY

The first meeting of the season was held on Wednesday, 22 April, at the Addington Golf Club, Croydon, Surrey.

In the morning the "Selby Cup" was won by J. Alan Slater, with a return of 84-7=77.

The afternoon fourball was also won by J. Alan Slater, in partnership with F. J. Buckland, with a return of 3 up on bogey.

The next meeting will be held at Beaconsfield Golf Club, Bucks, on Wednesday, 27 May.

The Society is open to all whose names are in the Kalendar. Will anyone interested please communicate with R. B. Selby [A.], Hon. Secretary, 48 Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

### RATES AND RATEABLE VALUES

Annual statements have been published for 1913-14, 1919-20, and each subsequent year showing the rates in the pound and the rateable value of every borough, urban and rural\* district in England and Wales.

The Statement for 1935-36 (including particulars for 1934-35, for purposes of comparison) has now been issued by the Ministry of Health. It is entitled "Rates and Rateable Values in England and Wales," and can be obtained (price 1s.) direct from the Stationery Office or through any bookseller.

The Statement also shows for each area the amount, per head of the population, of rateable value (1935) and of rates collected (1935-36). Similar information for various classes of areas is given in the Prefatory Note. Summaries for each administrative county are also given.

A table contained in the Prefatory Note shows that the average rate in the pound collected in 1935-36, though higher than in the three preceding years, is lower than in any other year since 1919-20.

\* For years before 1928-29 particulars were given for 100 rural parishes only, as typical of rural districts generally.

### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER USERS

Members are reminded that the National Association of Water Users, on which the R.I.B.A. is represented, exists for the purpose of protecting the interests of consumers.

Members who experience difficulties with water companies, etc., in connection with fittings are recommended to seek the advice of the Association. The address of the Association is 46 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

### THE ROYAL MINT

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The King, on the recommendation of the Master of the Mint, has approved the appointment of Lord Balniel, M.P., Mr. Kenneth Clark, Mr. George Grey Wornum, and Mr. Alfred Turner, R.A. (representing the Royal Academy), as additional members of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee on Coins, Medals, Seals, and Decorations.

## Notes from the Minutes of the Council

6 April 1936

### THE KING AND PATRONAGE OF THE R.I.B.A.

The Council were informed that His Majesty the King had been graciously pleased to grant his Patronage to the Royal Institute.

### LOYAL ADDRESS TO KING EDWARD VIII

A letter was submitted from Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary, expressing His Majesty the King's grateful thanks for the Loyal and Dutiful Address presented to His Majesty on the occasion of the lamented death of His late Majesty King George the Fifth, and expressing His Majesty's gracious admiration of the beautiful illumination of the Address.

### THE ROYAL GOLD MEDAL

His Majesty the King's approval of the award of the Royal Gold Medal to Mr. Charles Holden was formally reported.

### PROFESSOR A. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.A.

On the proposition of the President it was resolved that the cordial congratulations of the Council be conveyed to Professor A. E. Richardson on his election as an Associate of the Royal Academy.

### THE R.I.B.A. EXAMINATION BOARD IN INDIA

The Board of Architectural Education reported that they had appointed Mr. Percy Wilson [A.] to serve as one of the R.I.B.A. representatives on the R.I.B.A. Examination Board in India. The other R.I.B.A. representatives are Mr. D. W. Ditchburn [F.] and Professor Claude Batley [A.]

### THE R.I.B.A. ATHENS BURSARY, 1935

The Board reported that they had approved the report on his tour submitted by Mr. Hope Baggenal (Athens Bursar 1935).

### OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION, 1936-1937

The Officers of the Board for the year ending 31 March 1937 were appointed as follows:—

Mr. T. A. Darcy Braddell: Chairman.

Mr. Hubert Lightfoot (Chairman of the Examinations Committee)

Professor L. B. Budden (Chairman of the Schools Committee)

Mr. Stephen Welsh (Chairman of the Prizes and Scholarships Committee)

Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher, Hon. Secretary.

Vice-Chairmen.

### THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD AND THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The R.I.B.A. Members of the Board and the various Committees of the Board were appointed for the year ending 31 March 1937.

### TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. E. Stanley Hall (Vice-President) was appointed as the R.I.B.A. delegate to the Twenty-second Annual Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis to be held in London from 16 to 18 July.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS HEALTH ORGANISATION

The Science Standing Committee reported that, as a matter of urgency, they had appointed Mr. P. J. Waldram [L.] to represent the Royal Institute on a sub-committee on "Health and Comfort Conditions in Housing," appointed as a result of the recent joint meeting of interested bodies called by the Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### STANDARDISATION OF BATHS AND FITTINGS

The Science Standing Committee reported that, as a matter of urgency, they had appointed Mr. R. J. Angel [F.] to represent the Royal Institute on a Technical Committee, set up by the British Standards Institution, as a result of representations made by the Committee and the Building Industries National Council, to consider the standardisation of baths and their fittings.

### CANVASSING AT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It was agreed to publish a note in the JOURNAL deprecating the canvassing of votes at R.I.B.A. Council elections.

### ADDRESS ON AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

It was agreed to invite Col. Garforth of the Home Office to give a short talk on air raid precautions at the General Meeting to be held on 22 June.

### R.I.B.A. ARCHITECTURE BRONZE MEDALS: BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

The award of the R.I.B.A. Architecture Bronze Medal in the area of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association in favour of the New Wing of the Radcliffe Science Library, Oxford, designed by Mr. Hubert Worthington [F.] of Messrs. Thomas Worthington & Son, was formally approved.

### OBITUARY

On the proposition of the President the sincere sympathy of the Council was conveyed to the relatives of the late Mr. George Hubbard (Retired Fellow) (Vice-President 1912-1915 and 1922-1923).

The sincere sympathy of the Council was also conveyed to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in the great loss which the Society has suffered in the death of their Secretary, Mr. A. R. Powys [A.]

### THE EXHIBITION OF EVERYDAY THINGS

A report was submitted from the Art Standing Committee and Exhibition Sub-Committee regarding the recent Exhibition of Everyday Things.

Upon the proposition of the President it was resolved that the cordial thanks of the Council be conveyed to the Exhibition Sub-Committee and all those who took part in organising this Exhibition.

### 1937 EXHIBITION

The principle of the proposals of the Art Standing Committee and Exhibition Sub-Committee for the organisation of a major Exhibition in February and March 1937 was approved.

### AMENDMENT OF THE BYE-LAWS OF THE BRANCH SOCIETIES OF THE WESSEX SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

An amendment of the Bye-laws of the Branch Societies of the Wessex Society of Architects was formally approved.

### MEMBERSHIP

The following members were elected:—

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| As Hon. Corresponding Member | 1  |
| As Fellows                   | 7  |
| As Associates                | 25 |
| As Licentiates               | 6  |

### Election, 11 May 1936

Applications for membership were approved as follows:—

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| As Hon. Associate            | 1 application  |
| As Hon. Corresponding Member | 4 applications |
| As Fellows                   | 2              |
| As Associates                | 12             |
| As Licentiates               | 6              |

### Resignations

The following resignations were accepted with regret:—

Thomas Baird [F.]

Ernest Arthur O. Auldrige Jamieson [F.]

John William Mawson [F.]

Herbert George Jefferies [A.]

Harold Morgan Lewis [A.]

Edward Percy Proctor Samuels [A.]

Francis Houlton Wrench [L.]

### Transfer to the Retired Members Class

The following members were transferred to the Retired Members Class:—

As Retired Associates: John Newton.

Thomas Gustavus Whitehead.

## Obituaries

### DR. WERNER HEGEMANN

We hear with great regret of the death of Dr. Werner Hegemann, the distinguished German authority on town-planning, who died a short while ago in America, at the early age of 54. His great work "Civic Art," which he wrote in collaboration with Mr. E. Peets in 1922, placed every student of planning permanently in his debt, and it is certain that his loss will be mourned throughout the world, and not least we can hope by serious students of planning in his own country, from which he was driven at the start of the Hitler regime, on account of criticisms which he had published of National Socialism. His books were publicly burned and his property confiscated. After his exile Dr. Hegemann lived in America, a country in which he had travelled and worked, and where his great services to the cause of planning were fully recognised, and where he had been appointed visiting professor at the New School for Social Research, New York, and Associate in Architecture and Lecturer at the Graduate School of Architecture, Columbia University.

From his youth Dr. Hegemann had interested himself in working-class housing, and had associated himself with various Socialist organisations, connection with which was enough to condemn him when the Nazis came to power, though his conflict with authority began in 1912, when he was prosecuted on the charge of incitement to class hatred because he had issued a poster which read "Six hundred dwellers in greater Berlin live at the rate of five to thirteen persons to a room. Three hundred thousand children have no playgrounds." The prosecution did not go forward because Dr. Hegemann's indictment of conditions in Berlin was so obviously true. In 1910 he staged housing exhibitions in Berlin and Dusseldorf, and later published his important book *Der Steinerne Berlin*, a history of Berlin housing and city planning based largely on the material he had gathered for the exhibitions.

Dr. Hegemann's first visit to the U.S.A. was in 1913, when he was asked by the People's Institute of New York to lecture on city planning, thereafter he was much in America, and prepared reports on many American cities, including Oakland, Berkeley, Cal., Chicago and Milwaukee. Later, after a period of travel in Europe and Western Asia, he became editor of the German paper, Wasmuth's *Monatshefte für Baukunst und Städtebau*, which he conducted with great brilliance, doing much to make the German architectural papers of those days the models for the whole world. From 1924 to 1933 he was city planning adviser to Hamelin, Leipzig and Munster.

Many London architects will remember with pleasure the occasion in 1928 when he came as a guest to the Architectural Association to read a paper on modern German architecture.

On his fiftieth birthday, in 1931, 150 architects and town-planners from all parts of Europe and America wrote to him asking that he should continue his critical work in which he tried to give recognition to all promising ideas, regardless of the school of thought represented; but such liberal scholarship was too much for the intolerance of Hitlerism, which indeed had itself suffered from the whip of Dr. Hegemann's criticism in a book called *History Unmasked*. It is cause for sorrow

that what at first was a loss only to Germany has now become a loss to the whole planning world.

### COL. EDWARD AUGUSTINE BLOUNT, C.B.E., F.S.I., Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur [Hon. A.]

We regret to record that Colonel E. A. Blount, Agent to Lord Howard de Walden, died on 28 March. Colonel Blount was the chief intermediary on behalf of the Howard de Walden estate in the R.I.B.A.'s negotiations for the purchase of the Portland Place site. His sympathy and foresight greatly facilitated the negotiations which have had such a successful outcome. His election to the Honorary Associateship in 1930 was a well-deserved tribute. When the building started Colonel Blount was Lord Howard de Walden's friendly representative in all things concerned with the design and construction of the building in as far as they affected the estate.

### GEORGE HUBBARD [F.]

Mr. George Hubbard, F.S.A. [F.], a memoir of whom by Dr. Cranage, Dean of Norwich, appeared in the JOURNAL of 4 April, died on Thursday, 19 March 1936, on his 77th birthday.

Mr. Hubbard was born in 1859, and after serving his articles he practised in London, where he continued for half a century. He became an Associate in 1922 and a Fellow in 1930, and was twice a vice-president of the Institute. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and for twenty-two years was surveyor to the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.

Among his principal architectural works are Stuart House, Cambridge; the almshouses at Mottingham (for the Ironmongers' Company); and war memorials for Cambridge, Shropshire, Montgomeryshire and Mottingham.

Mr. Hubbard was a great authority on dew ponds and collaborated with his brother, Dr. A. J. Hubbard, in writing *Neolithic Dew Ponds and Cattleways*. He wrote also a paper on Chehalis Cathedral, "Architecture of the Eastern Side of the Adriatic," and "The Exact Site of the Globe Playhouse of Shakespeare," the precise position of which he established.

Mr. Hubbard was a man of singular charm of character and varied interests, and he will be much missed in Mottingham, where he lived for forty-two years, especially in bowling circles and by those interested in arts and crafts.

### MAX FREIHERR VON FERSTEL

[Hon. Corr. Member]

We regret to announce the death of Max Freiherr von Ferstel on 28 March, at the age of 77. Freiherr von Ferstel had been an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Institute since 1892. He was Professor of Architecture in the Technical High School, Vienna, and an Aulic Councillor. He was buried in the crypt of Grinzing Church on 31 March.

## ALLIED SOCIETIES

### SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the South Wales Institute of Architects was held in Cardiff on Thursday, 19 March.

The toast of the Institute, coupled with the name of Mr. Percy Thomas, was proposed by the Marquis of Bute. After referring to the work of restoration which is being carried out at Caerphilly Castle, he said :—

"I would like to suggest that castles and cathedrals are not the most important of those monuments which give us an insight into the past. It is rather the domestic architecture, of which there is not much remaining in this part of the country, but is all we have, outside a museum, to allow us and those who come after us to understand the ways in which our predecessors lived."

Lord Bute would like to have old domestic architecture protected by some body like the Institute, so that unnecessary destruction could be eliminated. In Edinburgh, for instance, two main streets had already lost their grandeur, and were now but a heap of cheap and tawdry samples—their greatness gone.

British architects should not try to ape foreign styles of domestic architecture but should seek inspiration from beautiful examples which this country already possessed : so much was lost when a place deserted its own arts and erected a patchwork of everybody else's—homeless and soulless, with no character of its own.

In conclusion, Lord Bute expressed the hope that more buildings would not be built in Cathays Park, for he felt that with the completion of the university and the museum there would not be left more open space than would be desirable.

Moreover, he suggested that it would enhance the amenities of the city if in the future any large buildings were distributed in the outer parts of the town and so add a presence to the more ordinary districts.

Mr. Percy Thomas, in reply, said that there never had been a time when the Institute had played a greater part in our national life.

"At the beginning of this, our second centenary," he said, "we are in the happy position of representing practically the whole of our profession not only in the British Isles but throughout the Empire—a record which is unique in professional societies. Practically every Government department comes to us for advice and guidance on all matters of architectural importance, and there is hardly a municipality in the country which does not turn to us at some time or other when they are planning large public schemes."

He himself, as president of the Institute, tried to bring home to the towns he visited the necessity for the employment of qualified architects. They were never better qualified for their work than they were to-day and the public were taking a greater interest in architectural matters. Public authorities should, however, see to it that they took their part by insisting on the employment of the best architects for their public buildings. Cardiff, with a civic centre and group of buildings second to none in the country, had not maintained this high standard in many of her principal streets and in her suburbs. A control of elevations was needed : strong and immediate

action was necessary and the South Wales Institute would be only too willing to co-operate with the Lord Mayor in any way.

It seemed strange that side by side with this growth of ugly, offensive houses there should be developing in Cardiff one of the most successful schools of architecture in the whole country, the students of which, in the majority of cases, went straight to jobs in England.

"In this connection," he added, "I am delighted that the scheme for a degree course in architecture is likely to be arranged between the corporation and the university authorities."

Mr. P. Temple Morris, M.P., proposed "The City of Cardiff" and the Lord Mayor (Alderman G. Fred Evans) responded. The head of the Welsh School of Architecture, Mr. W. S. Purchon, proposed the toast of "The Guests," and Major Sir William Cope, K.C., and Mr. Gilbert Shepherd, J.P., replied.

### CAMBRIDGE CHAPTER OF ARCHITECTS

The Cambridge Chapter of Architects held its annual general meeting at Cambridgeshire House, Hills Road, Cambridge, on Friday, 27 March 1936.

The annual report and balance sheet, which showed a very satisfactory financial position, were presented and approved. The report referred to the activities of the Chapter during the year and indicated the valuable work which had been accomplished.

The following members were elected to officiate for the year 1936-37 :—Executive Committee Officers : Chairman, Mr. H. C. Hughes, M.A. [F] ; Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. E. Unwin [A.] ; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. H. Parker, [L.] ; and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. I. T. Sifton [A.]. Committee : Messrs. Theodore Fyfe, M.A., [F], R. D. Robson [L], Norman T. Myers [F], D. Denton Smith, Associate Member, and Major C. F. Skipper [F], F.R.S.A.I.

Mr. C. J. R. Wilson was re-elected Hon. Auditor.

As a number of its members are in March and Wisbech, the Chapter hopes to meet in one or both of these districts and visit some of the interesting buildings, etc., during the coming year. It also anticipates making arrangements for lectures in Cambridge on subjects of an architectural character and of interest to young people and others.

### NOTTINGHAM, DERBY AND LINCOLN ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY

After a supper given by the Nottingham practising members to the Derby and Lincoln members, Mr. E. Berry Webber [A.] lectured on "The Architectural Competition." He emphasised the value of competitions to the architectural profession and to the public, and explained the best method to adopt in entering competitions. "It was to the advantage of the public," he said, "to see that buildings erected by public money were constructed from prize-winning plans." Competitions in architecture afforded a wonderful opportunity for the young man to win his spurs in the profession. Many notable architects to-day had gained their first big chance through competitions.

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## NOTTS, DERBY AND LINCOLN ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY

The Fourth General Meeting of the Session was held at St. James's Restaurant, Derby, on Thursday, 19 March 1936, at 6.15 p.m.

Before the meeting began the Derby practising members entertained the Society to a meal, at which the President and fifty-eight members were present.

Afterwards Mr. G. Grey Wormum [F.], delivered a lecture on "Modern Architecture and the Craftsman," which was illustrated by lantern slides of different buildings and specimens of craftsmanship in different countries throughout Europe.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Grey Wormum and to the Derby practising members.

## Membership Lists

## ELECTION OF STUDENTS R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Students R.I.B.A. at the meeting of the Council held on 6 April 1936:—

ASHWORTH : JOHN ATKINSON, 44 Ullet Road, Liverpool.  
 BALL : LESLIE, 44 Greenhill Road, Coalville.  
 BARTLETT : HARCOURT, 25 Stanley Point, Devonport, Auckland, New Zealand.  
 BISHOP : HARVEY COLLINGS, 22 Hawthorne Road, King's Norton, Birmingham.  
 CAVE : REGINALD WILLIAM, 123 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts.  
 CHEYNE : JOHN GILBERT, 14 Clyvedon Rise, South Shields.  
 DAVISON : CHARLES DONALD, 6 Talbot Square, London, W.2.  
 ELLIS : JOHN BASIL, "Wyndcroft," Eccleston Park, Prescot.  
 EVANS : RONALD WYNN, 55 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.  
 HARLAND : MICHAEL ANTHONY, 55 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.  
 HARWOOD : ROBERT FREDERICK, 158 Patrick Street, St. John's, Newfoundland.  
 HENDERSON : WILLIAM ANTHONY, 96 Bedford Street South, Liverpool, 7.  
 HIGGINS : HENRY GILBERT FREDERICK, "The Mount," Bramhall Road, Waterloo, Liverpool.  
 HILLSON : WILLIAM REGINALD, 7 Delamere Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Lancs.  
 JONES : ANTHONY WILSON, Lower Plover, Knutsford.  
 JONES : IVO NORMAN, 5 Aximinster Road, Roath, Cardiff.  
 LUNTEZ : ABRAHAM, 54 Hillbrow Street, Berea, Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa.  
 McGOWAN : HAROLD DUDLEY SHIRLEY, 18, Claude Road, Epsom, Auckland, S.E.3, New Zealand.  
 MCKAY : CRAWFORD, 31 Harcourt Drive, Dennistoun, Glasgow, E.1.  
 MELLOR : TOM, 12 Milner Road, Ansdell, Lytham-St. Annes.  
 O'BRIEN : LESLIE DESMOND FITZ-MAURICE, 23 Rugby Mansions, Kensington, W.14.  
 PENN : RAYMOND, "St. Mawgans," Leighton Avenue, Pinner.  
 RICHARDSON : JOHN CHARLES, "Brohemie," Richmond Road, Huntly, N.B.  
 SCOTT : ALAN DUDLEY, High Broom, Crowborough, Sussex.  
 SEAWARD : MISS GWENDOLINE PHYLLIS, "Noyen," Headington Hill, Oxford.  
 SIANG : NG KENG, 27 St. George's Square, London, N.W.1.  
 SIMPSON : IAN BEGG, 71 Marlborough Mansions, London, N.W.6.  
 SPENCER : MISS PHYLLIS MARY, 22 Cartwright Gardens, London, W.C.1.  
 WARBURTON : NORMAN JOSEPH, School House, Thornton Curtis, Ulceby, S.O., Lincs.  
 WARD : ROGER VINCENT, 96 Bedford Street South, Liverpool, 7.  
 WILLEY : JOHN BOLAM, White House, Craghead, Co. Durham.

R.I.B.A. PROBATIONERS  
 During the month of March 1936 the following were enrolled as Probationers of the Royal Institute:—  
 ALLSOPP : CECIL JOSEPH, Saddington Road, Fleckney, Leicestershire.

AUTON : LEWIS, "The Hollies," Garton End Road, Peterborough.  
 BARTLETT : HARCOURT, 25 Stanley Point, Devonport, Auckland, N.1, New Zealand.  
 BICKFORD : REGINALD JOSEPH, 42 Vivian Road, Sketty, Swansea.  
 BREWER : PHILIP GERALD DRAKE, 1 Queen's Park Gardens, Bourne-mouth, Hants.  
 BUCK : ALFRED CECIL, 21 Athenlay Road, London, S.E.15.  
 BURGESS : ERIC LUTHER, Ward B. Dept., R.A.F. Base, Seletar, Singapore.  
 BURGESS : HORACE CLAUDE, 26 Howitt Road, N.W.3.  
 CORNWALL : EDWIN PHILLIP, "Sandyway," St. Weonards, Herefordshire.  
 CORSAK : PETER McGEOCH, 3 Auckland Road East, Southsea, Hants.  
 CRICKWOOD : ARTHUR HAYTER, 12 Park Road, Redhill, Surrey.  
 DAVISON : CHARLES DONALD, 6 Talbot Square, London, W.2.  
 DIXON : MISS BERYL MAY, 5 George's Road, Brooklands, Cheshire.  
 DUNFORD : FRANK WILLIAM, 321 Sutton Common Road, Sutton, Surrey.  
 EDWARDE : JOHN MORTON, 446 Moss Lane East, Manchester, 14.  
 EDWARDE : PERCY CHARLES, 13 Upway, North Finchley, N.12.  
 FURLONG : RICHARD ALBERT, 37 Kimberley Road, Cardiff.  
 GEORGE : RICHARD PROTHEROE, Foley House, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales.  
 GURLING : REGINALD PERCY HOWARD, 16 Buckland Hill, Maidstone, Kent.  
 HALSEY : REX MARTINDALE, 68 Watford Road, Croxley Green, Herts.  
 HILL : ERIC ANTHONY, County Architect's Dept., County Hall, Guildhall Road, Northampton.  
 JONES : FRANCIS MICHAEL, 30 Thornholme Crescent, Liverpool, 11.  
 JONES : MALCOLM WARDEEN, c/o Mrs. Hibbins, 12 Ermine Street, Huntingdon, Hunts.  
 KENNING : RAYMOND WILLIAM, 144 Ashby Road, Burton-on-Trent.  
 KIRKWOOD : JAMES SMITH, 36 Taymouth Street, Tollcross, Glasgow, E.2.  
 KNOTT : MRS. EILEEN ELIZABETH, 173 Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancs.  
 LIGHTOWLER : CYRIL VARLEY, Beaufort House, Brook Lane, Golcar, near Huddersfield.  
 LITTLE : JOHN MICHAEL DESMOND, c/o C. U. P.cher, F.R.I.B.A., 4 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk.  
 McGOWAN : HAROLD DUDLEY SHIRLEY, 18 Claude Road, Epsom, Auckland, S.E.3, New Zealand.  
 MEARNS : ALAN WILFRED, "Linsheels," Tynedale Road, South Shields.  
 MIDDLETON : PETER, 42 Park Street, Worksop, Notts.  
 MILES : GODFREY ELLIS, 20 Alexandra Road, Stamford, Lincs.  
 MORGAN : IVO JOYNSON, 32 Stamford Avenue, Crewe.  
 PARHAM : LEONARD FRANCIS, 261 Napier Road, Gillingham, Kent.  
 PIMM : ARTHUR SIDNEY BERNARD, "Windermere," Whitefields Road, Solihull, Warwickshire.  
 PRICE : LESLIE ROLAND CHARLES, "Kingsleigh," Moor Farm Lane, Hereford.  
 RAE : THOMAS, 2 Croall Place, Edinburgh.  
 SANDERS : ERIC RICHARD, High Street, Repton, Derby.  
 STUBBS : GEORGE LAMBTON, 7 Vere Terrace, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.

SUTER : RONALD EDWIN, 30 St. James' Road, Watford, Herts.  
 THOMPSON : KENNETH JOHN, "Kenmary," Victoria Avenue, Willerby, near Hull.  
 THORP : CHARLES HERBERT, 38 Cinderhills, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, Yorks.  
 TUNSTILL : JOHN BURN, 97 Chester Road, West Hartlepool.  
 YELLOWLEES : BENJAMIN VALENTINE INGRAM, 18 Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh, 10.  
 During the month of April 1936 the following were enrolled as Probationers of the Royal Institute :—  
 ALEXANDER : WILLIAM EDWARD, P.O. Box 353, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.  
 BAFF : LIONEL CHARLES MCKEWS, 86A East Street, Chichester.  
 BROWN : ALASDAIR BOYD, c/o Barclays Bank (D.C.O.), 111 St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2.  
 CLAYTON : DOUGLAS CHARLES, 25 Eastlands Crescent, Dulwich, S.E.21.  
 COLLINS : A. C., 15 Mosslea Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey.  
 CORNFIELD : DONALD GEORGE, 112 Southam Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.  
 COSTELLO : F. G., c/o Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Australia House, Strand, W.C.2.  
 CROSLAND : ARTHUR JAMES, "Ranmoor," Scar Lane, Milnesbridge, Huddersfield.  
 DAVIES : HUGH LLEWELYN, "Likovan," Hendrefoilan Road, Sketty, Swansea.  
 DAVIS : DAVID ISAAC STRATTON, Briarfield, Libertus Road, Cheltenham.  
 DICKIE : ANNESLEY WALLACE, Ardeevin, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.  
 DODDS : KENNETH, 51 Rokeby Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
 EARLE : FRANCIS ERNEST, 37 Manor Lane, London, S.E.13.  
 EDWARDS : JOHN EDWARD GRAEME, 24 St. Mary's Road, Harborne, Birmingham, 17.  
 FORSYTH : W. L. H., Orient Line Building, 352 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1, Australia.  
 GARWOOD : WALTER WILLIAM, 13 Beach Road, Bow, London, E.3.  
 GENTLES : JOHN, 1 Wilson Street, Cliftonville, Coatbridge, Scotland.  
 GIFFORD : FRANCIS STANLEY, Wycombe, Salisbury Avenue, Broadstairs.  
 GLOAG : HERBERT LAURENCE, 204 Hagden Lane, Watford, Herts.  
 HARRIS : LEONARD REGINALD, 3 Bowler Street, Marchay, Derby.  
 HOLBROOK : LEONARD CHARLES, Brambledown, 166 Shirley Road, Croydon.  
 HUGGINS : PETER, 40 Waverley Road, Reading.  
 HURD : S. JAMES, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin, I.F.S.

JOHNS : WILLIAM HENRY ALUN, Llanferran, Goodwick, Pembs.  
 JONES : ANTHONY WILLIAM HARNESS DUNCAN, The Deanery, Chichester.

KENNAN : JOHN JOSEPH, 34 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa.  
 KENRICK : JOHN BYNG, The Grove, Harborne Park Road, Birmingham, 17.

LAWSON : ARTHUR WILLIAM, "Almagno," Prettygate Road, Lexden, Colchester.

LEE : REGINALD MARSHALL, "Roston," Anchorholme, Lane West, Blackpool.

LOW : GEORGE THOMAS, Hayhill, Thorntonhall, Near Glasgow.

McKNIGHT : GORDON KEMPSON, 94, Stransmillis Road, Belfast.

McLAUGHLIN : STEWART FARRINGTON, Nethway, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.

MATHIESON : DOUGLAS HAIG, 11 Weymouth Road, Frome, Somerset.

MATTHEWS : LESLIE BRUCE, 97 Rowan Avenue, Hove, 4, Sussex.

MERRY : JOHN MICHAEL, 25 Highfield Road, Birmingham, 15.

METCALF : HALL, Illoura Avenue, Wahroonga, N.S.W., Australia.

MEW : DEREK JAMES, 11 Armada Street, Plymouth.

MUNDAY : CLIFFORD JOHN, 23 Alexandra Road, South Farnborough, Hants.

NOTLEY : DONALD WILLIAM, 96 Bedford Street, Liverpool.

PALMER : BRIAN D., Sherbourne Hill, Warwick.

PITCHER : THOMAS JOHN HERBERT, 135 Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

POOLE : ARTHUR BENJAMIN, 157 Warwick Road, Olton, Warwickshire.

REID : WILLIAM ALEXANDER, 46 Vicarton Street, Girvan.

RUBIDGE : ALAN HERBERT, "Lyncroft," Lower Road, Dorking, Surrey.

SMITH : HERBERT STANLEY, "Freystan," 83 Burton Road, Burton-on-Trent.

STATHAM : STEPHEN HAYWOOD, 59 Hillbury Avenue, Kenton, Middlesex.

TODD : W. WYLTON, Dorland House, London, S.W.1.

TURNER : RAYMOND WHITBY, "Lindale," Guest Road, Prestwich, Manchester.

VERNON : RUSSELL GEOFFREY DUDDELL, 52 Croxton Road, West Dulwich, S.E.21.

WAITE : KENNETH, 218, Beckfield Lane, Acomb, York.

WILKINSON : ROGER DRUMMOND, 27 Devon Gardens, Gateshead.

WILLIAMS : BOBBY ROYSTON, 50 Upper Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol, 6.

WILLIAMS : LAURENCE G., 8 Boundary Road, N.W.8.

WYLDE-BROWNE : ACTON WHITMORE, c/o R. S. D. Harman, Box 379, Christchurch, New Zealand.

## Notices

### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY, 11 MAY 1936, AT 8 P.M.

The One Hundred and Second Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 11 May 1936, at 8 p.m. for the following purposes :—

To read the Minutes of the Tenth General Meeting held on Monday, 20 April 1936; formally to admit members attending for the first time since their election.

To receive the Annual Report of the Council and Standing Committees for the official year 1935-1936, printed on pp. 629-671 of this issue of the JOURNAL. Copies of the report will be available for members at the meeting.

To nominate candidates (two members) for the office of Hon. Auditors for the ensuing year.

To receive the list of attendances at the Council and Standing Committees during the Session.

### INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, 19 MAY 1936

The Fifth and last Informal General Meeting of the Session 1935-1936 will be held on Tuesday, 19 May 1936, at 6.15 p.m.

The meeting will take the form of an open discussion on the recent paper by Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C. [F.], on "Architectural Education," which is reprinted in full in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL of 4 April 1936.

The chair will be taken by Mr. John Summerson, B.A.(Arch.) London [A.].

Tea will be provided from 5.30 p.m. onwards.

Mr. Ansell has signified his intention of being present and it is earnestly hoped that the Principals and Heads of the Schools of Architecture will make every effort to attend in order to take part in the discussion.

## R.I.B.A. RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 1936

It has been decided by the Council to hold a Reception on Wednesday, 20 May 1936, from 9 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Members and guests will be received by the President and Mrs. Percy Thomas in the Henry Florence Hall from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., and light refreshments and music will be provided.

A large number of distinguished guests are expected to be present and it is anticipated that a considerable number of members will wish to attend. Members may bring private guests—ladies or gentlemen.

The price of the tickets to members will be 5s. with an additional charge of 5s. for each private guest.

Members are requested to make a note of the date of the Reception, and those who intend to be present are particularly requested to submit their applications, together with their cheques, as soon as possible.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE,  
SOUTHAMPTON, 24-27 JUNE 1936

Final arrangements for all the events of the Conference are now being made. It is hoped that all members and students who have not already done so will at once refer to the programme sent to them with the last issue of the JOURNAL and send in their names without delay and in any case *not later than Saturday, 13 June*, for such of the events as they desire to take part in.

It is expected that there will be a large attendance of members from all parts of the country, and they are urgently requested to arrange for their hotel accommodation at the earliest possible date so as to avoid the risk of disappointment.

The Executive Committee of the Conference have kindly furnished a list of hotels, with charges, together with a plan of Southampton showing the position of hotels, Conference Centres, etc. Copies of these may be obtained on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A.

Members of the R.I.B.A. and the Allied Societies who are officials of local authorities will be cordially welcomed as delegates to the Conference.

## FEES FOR WORK IN PLACES ABROAD

The Practice Standing Committee wish to draw the attention of members to the importance of ensuring that, in cases in which work abroad is to be designed by an architect in practice in the British Isles but supervised by a local architect, arrangements for the payment of adequate fees to cover the services of both architects are agreed with the client beforehand.

## THE USE OF THE TITLES "CHARTERED ARCHITECT" AND "REGISTERED ARCHITECT"

Now that the Registration Act is in force the Council have been asked to give advice with regard to the best way to use the title "Registered Architect" by members of the R.I.B.A. who have been placed on the Register, and who already have the right to use the designation "Chartered Architect."

The Council recommend that members of the R.I.B.A. who have been registered should use the designation "Chartered and Registered Architect."

## OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

When members are contemplating applying for appointments overseas they are recommended to communicate with the Secretary R.I.B.A., who will supply them with any available information respecting conditions of employment, cost of living, climatic conditions, etc.

## NEW BUILDING MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS

The Science Standing Committee wish to draw attention to the fact that information in the records of the Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, is freely available to any member of the architectural profession, and suggest that architects would be well advised, when considering the use of new materials and preparations of which they have had no previous experience, to apply to the Director for any information he can impart regarding their properties and application.

## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER USERS

Members are reminded that the National Association of Water Users, on which the R.I.B.A. is represented, exists for the purpose of protecting the interests of consumers.

Members who experience difficulties with water companies, etc., in connection with fittings are recommended to seek the advice of the Association. The address of the Association is 46 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

## Competitions

The Council and Competitions Committee wish to remind members and members of Allied Societies that it is their duty to refuse to take part in competitions unless the conditions are in conformity with the R.I.B.A. Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions and have been approved by the Institute.

While, in the case of small limited private competitions, modifications of the R.I.B.A. Regulations may be approved, it is the duty of members who are asked to take part in a limited competition to notify the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. immediately, submitting particulars of the competition. This requirement now forms part of the Code of Professional Practice in which it is ruled that a formal invitation to two or more architects to prepare designs in competition for the same project is deemed a limited competition.

## BARKING : NEW TOWN HALL AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The Barking Corporation invite architects practising in the United Kingdom to submit in competition designs for a new Town Hall and Municipal Buildings to be erected at a cost not exceeding £160,000.

Assessor : Mr. H. V. Lanchester [F.]

Premiums : £500, £250 and a further £200 to be awarded as recommended by the Assessor.

Last day for receiving designs : 14 September 1936.

Last day for questions : 1 May 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. S. A. Jewers, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Barking. Deposit £2 2s.

## BELFAST : NEW WATER OFFICES

The Belfast City and District Water Commissioners are proposing to hold a competition for new Office Buildings and Mr. H. Austen Hall [F.] has been appointed to act as Assessor. Conditions are not yet available.

## BIRMINGHAM : NEW CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, ETC.

The Corporation of the City of Birmingham are to hold a competition for a new Central Technical College, Commercial

College and School of Arts and Crafts. Mr. J. R. Adamson [F.] has been appointed to act as Assessor and the premiums to be offered will be £750, £500 and £250. Conditions will be issued in the near future.

#### BIRMINGHAM : WORKING-CLASS FLATS

The Public Works and Town Planning Committee of the City of Birmingham invite architects of British nationality practising in the British Isles to submit in competition designs for working-class flats to be erected in concrete on the Emily Street and Vaughton Street area.

Assessor : Mr. Louis de Soissons, O.B.E., S.A.D.G. [F.]

Premiums : £400, £250, £150, and £100.

Last day for receiving designs : 11 July, 1936.

Last day for questions : 9 May, 1936.

#### DARTFORD : NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND ASSEMBLY HALL

The Dartford Town Council invite architects practising in the United Kingdom to submit in competition designs for new Municipal Offices and Assembly Hall.

Assessor : Mr. P. D. Hepworth [F.]

Premiums : 200, 100 and 50 guineas.

Last day for receiving designs : 21 August 1936.

Last day for questions : 29 June 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. J. James Hurtley, Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, Dartford. Deposit £1 1s.

(Conditions have not yet been considered by the Competitions Committee.)

#### DONCASTER : GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Doncaster Town Council, the Education Committee and the Governors of the Grammar School are promoting a competition for a new Grammar School. The competition will be open to Registered Architects in private practice having an office within the rating area of the town of Doncaster on 1 January, 1935, to any old boy of Doncaster Grammar School who is a Registered Architect and in private practice, and to the following architects nominated by the President of the R.I.B.A. :—Mr. C. T. Adshead [A.], Mr. Leonard Barnish [F.], Messrs. Buckley and Haywood [FF.], Mr. J. R. Leathart [F.], Messrs. Tatchell and Wilson [FF.], and Messrs. William and T. R. Milburn [FF.]

Assessor : Professor W. G. Newton, M.A. [F.]

Premiums : £200, £100 and £75.

Last day for receiving designs : 17 June 1936.

Last day for questions : 21 April 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. G. R. H. Danby, M.A., Secretary, Education Offices, Doncaster. Deposit £1 1s.

#### DUNDEE : COLLEGE OF ART

The Dundee Institute of Art and Technology are to hold a competition for the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Mr. J. R. Leathart [F.] has been appointed to act as Assessor. Conditions are not yet available.

#### EDMONTON : NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS

The Edmonton Urban District Council are proposing to hold a competition for new Town Hall Buildings, and Mr. E. Berry Webber [A.] has been appointed to act as Assessor. No conditions are available yet.

#### FOLKESTONE : PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Folkestone Borough Council invite architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for new Public Elementary Schools, to accommodate 650 children, to be erected at Surrenden Road, Folkestone.

Assessor : Mr. Verner O. Rees [F.]

Premiums : £200, £125 and £75.

Last day for receiving designs has been changed to 6 June 1936.

Last day for questions : 31 March 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. J. A. Wilkinson, Clerk of the Folkestone Borough Education Committee, Education Offices, Old Harvey Grammar School, Foord Road, Folkestone. Deposit, £1 1s.

#### GLAMORGAN : NEW PUBLIC HEALTH HOSPITAL

The Glamorgan County Council invite architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for a new Public Health Hospital to be erected at Church Village, near Pontypridd, Glamorgan.

Assessors : Mr. E. Stanley Hall [F.], Vice-President R.I.B.A.

Mr. W. James Nash [F.]

Premiums : £500, £300 and £150.

Last day for receiving designs : 29 May 1936.

Last day for questions : 28 February 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained from Mr. Henry Rowland, Clerk of the Glamorgan County Council, Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff. Deposit £1 1s.

#### GLASGOW : FIVE-APARTMENT COTTAGE

In connection with the Housing and Health Exhibition, 1936, the Corporation of the City of Glasgow invite architects in Scotland to submit in competition designs for a five-apartment cottage (semi-detached).

Assessors : Mr. James McKissack [L.].

Mr. W. B. McNab.

Mr. J. H. Ferrie.

Premiums : £75, £50 and £25.

Last day for receiving designs : 22 May, 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Manager, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

#### HOLBORN : PUBLIC BATHS AND WASHHOUSES

The Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Holborn are proposing to hold an open competition for the rebuilding of the Public Baths and Washhouses in Broad Street and Endell Street, and the President has nominated Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross [F.] Assessor. Conditions are not yet available.

#### LLANDUDNO : NEW HOSPITAL

A competition is to be held for a new hospital for Llandudno and District with a total accommodation of 150 beds. The first part of the scheme to be built will not exceed 65 to 70 beds. On the nomination of the President, R.I.B.A., Mr. R. Norman Mackellar [A.], of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been appointed to act as Assessor. Conditions are not yet available.

#### LUTON : NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Bedfordshire County Council invite Registered Architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for a new Secondary School for Boys at Luton.

Assessor : Professor W. G. Newton [F.]

Premiums : £200, £100 and £50.

Last day for receiving designs : 27 May 1936.

Last day for questions : 25 March 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Clerk of the County Council, Shire Hall, Bedford. Deposit £1 1s.

#### NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME : BLOCK OF SHOPS AND OFFICES

The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme are proposing to hold a competition for a new Block of Shops and Offices, and Mr. H. S. Fairhurst [F.], of Manchester, has been appointed to act as Assessor. No conditions are available yet.

#### NEWPORT, MON. : NEW CIVIC CENTRE

The Corporation of the County Borough of Newport, Mon., are proposing to hold a competition for the lay-out and design of a new Civic Centre. Mr. E. Berry Webber [A.] has been appointed to act as Assessor, jointly with Mr. C. F. Ward [F.], the Borough Architect. Conditions are not yet available.

#### SOUTH SHIELDS : ASSEMBLY HALL

The South Shields Town Council propose to hold a competition for an Assembly Hall to be erected on a site at the rear of the Town Hall. Mr. Arthur J. Hope [F.] has been appointed to act as Assessor. Conditions are not yet available.

#### WATFORD AND BISHOP'S STORTFORD : POLICE STATIONS AND POLICE COURTS

The Hertfordshire County Council are proposing to hold a limited competition for new Police Stations and Police Courts at Watford and Bishop's Stortford, and Mr. H. V. Lanchester [F.] has been appointed to act as Assessor.

#### WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA : SWIMMING BATH

#### WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Headmaster and Headmistress of the above Schools are proposing to hold a competition for a design for a Swimming Bath and invite practising architects who are members of the Southend Chapter of the Essex, Cambridge and Hertfordshire Society of Architects to submit designs.

Assessor : Mr. Percy G. Hayward [F.]

Last day for receiving designs : 1 July 1936.

Last day for questions : 1 June 1936.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. H. G. Williams, Westcliff High School for Boys, Eastwood Boulevard, Westcliff-on-Sea. Deposit £1 1s.

#### COMPETITION FOR JOINT RAILWAY RECEIVING OFFICES IN LONDON

The four main railway companies (L.N.E.R., L.M.S., G.W.R. and Southern) are proposing to hold a competition for a design for Standard Joint Railway Receiving Offices in London, and the following have been appointed to act as Assessors : Mr. L. H. Bucknell [F.], Mr. C. Grasemann, Mr. W. H. Hamlyn [F.], Mr. Charles Holden [F.], Vice-President, R.I.B.A. No conditions are available yet.

#### COMPETITION RESULT

#### GRANITE COMPETITION : ENTRANCE TO A TUNNEL

1. Messrs. C. J. Keates (Student) and R. V. Leacroft (Student) (London).

2. Messrs. C. J. Keates (Student) and R. V. Leacroft (Student) (London).

3. Mr. John D. Maidment (Sheffield).

## Members' Column

*Owing to limitation of space, notices in this column are restricted to changes of address, partnerships vacant or wanted, practices for sale or wanted, office accommodation, and appointments vacant. Members are reminded that a column in the Advertisement Section of the Journal is reserved for the advertisements of members seeking appointments in architects' offices. No charge is made for such insertions and the privilege is confined to members who are definitely unemployed.*

#### CORRECTION

In the notice in Mr. Harry Walters' name in the last number of the JOURNAL he was incorrectly styled "Student." Mr. Walters became an Associate in December 1935 and the notice should read as follows :—

#### NEW PRACTICE

MR. HARRY WALTERS [A.] is setting up practice at 44 Lune Street, Preston.

#### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

MR. PHILIP A. W. ROFFEY (Student) is entering into partnership with Mr. Richard S. Brocklesby (Student) and will practise under the name of Roffey & Brocklesby at No. 1 Putney Hill, London, S.W.15. Telephone No. : Putney 6240.

MR. E. TAYLOR [Student] has been appointed First Town Planning Assistant to the Amersham and Chesham Joint Planning Committee, and his address is Town Planning Assistant, Elmodesham House, High Street, Amersham, Bucks.

MR. H. C. HUGHES, M.A., [F.], and Mr. Peter Bicknell, M.A., [A.], have gone into partnership and will continue to practise at Tunwell's Court, Trumpington Street, Cambridge and at 46 Berners Street, W.1, under the name of H. C. Hughes and Peter Bicknell.

#### PARTNERSHIPS WANTED

F.R.I.B.A., at present in partnership in small country practice, requires more extensive practice, or share in one, in Home Counties or London. Good general experience. Some capital available.—Reply Box No. 2846, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

FELLOW is prepared on mutually advantageous terms to place his office (in first-class West End square) at the disposal of a provincial architect, with whom also he will be prepared to collaborate in any London or other work.—Box No. 3046, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

F.R.I.B.A., aged 36, with 12 years' experience in small practice, seeks partnership in well-established firm, preferably in or near London. Some capital available.—Box No. 2446, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

#### PARTNER WANTED

F.R.I.B.A. practising in London desires to meet a younger architect to discuss the possibility of working in collaboration or with a view to partnership.—Apply Box No. 4536, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

#### NEW PRACTICES

THE partnership between Mr. William T. Benslyn and Mr. James Morrison ceased by the effluxion of time on 25 March last; they have given up their office at 107 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, and have decided to conduct separate practices in future. Mr. Benslyn will continue to practise at 17 Easy Row, Birmingham, 1, and Mr. Morrison will practise at Cecil Chambers, 76-86 Strand, London, W.C.2.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MESSRS. MAUCHLEN AND WEIGHTMAN [FF.] have changed their address to 12 Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1. The telephone number is Newcastle 21063, as before.

## MINUTES X

SESSION 1935-1936.

At the tenth general meeting of the Session 1935-1936, held on Monday, 20 April 1936, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Ingaltion Sanders, Vice-President, in the chair.

The meeting was attended by about 140 members and guests.

The minutes of the ninth general meeting, held on 6 April 1936, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of:

Freiherr Max von Ferstel, elected an Honorary Corresponding Member 1892.

Frederick John Ing, transferred to Fellowship 1925.

Dudley Newman, elected Fellow 1891, transferred to Retired Fellowship 1933.

John Harold Hayward, elected Associate 1922.

Edward Albert Jollye, elected Associate 1903.

John David Kendall, transferred to Licentiateship 1926.

Douglas Yeatman Rossiter, elected Licentiate 1933.

And it was resolved that the regrets of the Institute for their loss be entered on the minutes, and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the Chairman:

*Fellows :*

Frederick Barber Kenneth S. Broad P. J. B. Harland.

*Associates :*

John C. Barton. G. B. Bradley. L. S. Dyer.  
D. Rodney Gillam. E. L. T. Hoare. E. D. Lyons.  
C. E. Plews. E. Howard Sadler. E. P. Warren.  
Leonard T. Wilkins.

*Licentiate :*

C. H. Walker.

*Students :*

J. Antony Lewis. Arthur J. Zammit.

Mr. Harold A. Dod, M.A.Lypl. [F.J., having read a paper on "Library Planning," a discussion ensued, and on the motion of Dr. H. H. E. Craster, M.A., F.S.A., F.L.A., Bodley's Librarian, seconded by Mr. Arundell Esdaile, M.A., F.S.A., F.L.A., Secretary to the British Museum, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dod by acclamation and was briefly responded to.

The proceedings closed at 9.40 p.m.

### Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society

ARCHITECTS' ASSISTANTS' INSURANCE FOR THE NATIONAL  
HEALTH AND PENSIONS ACTS

Architects' Assistants are advised to apply for the prospectus of the Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, 26 Birmingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

The Society deals with questions of insurability for the National Health and Pensions Acts (for England) under which, in general, those employed at remuneration not exceeding £250 per annum are compulsorily insurable.

In addition to the usual sickness, disablement, and maternity benefits, the Society makes grants towards the cost of dental or optical treatment (including provision of spectacles).

No membership fee is payable beyond the normal Health and Pensions Insurance contribution.

The R.I.B.A. has representatives on the Committee of Management, and insured Assistants joining the Society can rely on prompt and sympathetic settlement of claims.

### A.B.S. Insurance Department

#### PENSION AND FAMILY PROVISION SCHEME FOR ARCHITECTS

This scheme has been formulated by the Insurance Committee of the Architects' Benevolent Society and is available to all members of the R.I.B.A. and its Allied and Associated Societies.

The benefits under the scheme include:—

(1) A Member's Pension, which may be effected for units of £50 per annum, payable monthly and commencing on attainment of the anniversary of entry nearest to age 65. This pension is guaranteed over a minimum period of five years and payable thereafter for the remainder of life.

(2) The Beneficiary's Pension, payable as from the anniversary mentioned in Benefit No. 1, but to the widow (or other nominated beneficiary) if the member dies before age 65. The amount of this pension is adjusted in accordance with the disparity between the ages of the member and his wife.

(3) Family Provision. Under this benefit a payment of £50 yearly is made to the dependent from the date of death of the member prior to age 65 until attainment of the anniversary previously mentioned, after which benefit No. 2 becomes available.

Provision can be made for any number of units (of £50 per annum) up to a maximum of £500 per annum.

Pension benefit only may be secured if desired and the pension commuted for a cash sum.

Members are entitled to claim rebate of Income Tax on their periodical contributions to the scheme both in respect of pension and of family provision benefit.

Full particulars of the scheme will be sent on application to the Secretary, A.B.S. Insurance Department, 66 Portland Place, W.1.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expressions of the Institute.

Members sending remittances by postal order for subscriptions or Institute publications are warned of the necessity of complying with Post Office Regulations with regard to this method of payment. Postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary R.I.B.A. and crossed.

#### R.I.B.A. JOURNAL

DATES OF PUBLICATION.—1936.—23 May; 6, 27 June; 18 July; 8 August; 5 September; 17 October.

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